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CAVALRY FIELD DUTY

MAJOR-GENERAL VON MIRUS

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CAVALRY FIELD DUTY.

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CAVALRY FIELD DUTY.

BY

MAJOR-GENERAL VON MIRUS.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN BY

CAPT. FRANK S. RUSSELL, 14TH KING'S HUSSARS.

BODLEIANA BIBLIOTHECA

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TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

THIS TRANSLATION would have appeared some time since had I not, by the desire of Messrs. Mittler and Son, the Berlin publishers, waited for the publication of a new edition, which embodied the experiences of the recent campaign.

The work from which the accompanying pages are taken is the text-book of instruction in the German Cavalry. Even were its merits not sufficiently evident, the manner in which outpost duty was performed in the German Army during the late war would testify to the talents of its distinguished author.

STAFF COLLEGE:
August 14, 1872.

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CAVALRY FIELD DUTY.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

3b

REGARDING WAR AND SERVICE IN THE FIELD GENERALLY.

CHAP. I.

WAR is the solemn and noble object for which the soldier is educated and trained, and, whatever may be its cause, it is waged for the good of his native country. The object of war is to destroy as soon as possible the resources of the enemy, and, by rendering him powerless, to oblige him to accede to the claims of our government, or to withdraw his own unjust pretensions.

War is carried on by means of decisive battles, sieges, &c.; what takes place in the time between such operations is expressed by the term minor warfare.

The general object of so-called minor warfare is to pave the way for greater operations, or in conjunction with them to inflict damage on the enemy, or, lastly,

CHAP. I.

to protect from attack masses of troops not yet available. The service which troops have to perform in 'minor warfare' is called field-duty, and in this light troops are more especially used.

Importance of field duty.

It is of the greatest importance to learn thoroughly the principles of field-duty. On the watchfulness, intelligence, and ability of the soldier, depends not only his own welfare, but also that of his officers and his comrades. Even the great object for which the war is being waged is entrusted to his honour and to his care.

While on service the soldier often finds himself in a position *where he can depend only on himself, and must trust to his own* judgment, it is on this account necessary that during peace there should be impressed on his mind everything which may serve to guide him in the various circumstances in which he may find himself placed. *Thus every young soldier should make the best use of the time of peace, in order that he may be efficient in war.*

All the other portions of a soldier's duty are but preparations for what he has to perform on service, and although it is necessary for him to perform these other duties correctly in order that he may be efficient in the field, still he has to learn this field duty, which is more important than all.

How field-duty may be learnt.

Young soldiers should have their attention more especially directed to this subject, and should devote all their energies to mastering it. Theoretical should precede practical instruction, and no pains should be

spared by instructors to make their men like, and take an interest in what they are taught.

Those, however, who wish to learn, are especially recommended to think out in their minds all they have heard, they should ponder over it, they should question and talk to each other regarding it when they are together, for instance when they are on guard, in their barrack rooms, when they go out for a walk; in fact they should never rest until they have a clear and distinct conception of what has been told them, and of what they have read.

A good way of impressing on the memory the principles of field-duty is to endeavour to picture in one's mind those situations or circumstances of war of which one has heard, or read, or to which the attention has been directed. The instructors and the older and experienced soldiers will gladly assist their younger comrades, who thus gradually will clearly and distinctly understand how to act under the various circumstances that may occur. This theoretical study will be of great use to the men both when they receive practical instruction and when they go on service.

Qualities necessary for a soldier.

The qualities which it is especially necessary that a soldier should possess on service, are courage, presence of mind, activity, endurance in hardship, together with intelligence and, where necessary, craft in stratagems.

The intelligent soldier, if he happen to be alone, or with only a few of his comrades, must have confidence in himself, he must wait quietly and exercise his own judgment.

CHAP. I.

As a vedette, or as reconnoitrer in an advance guard, as long as this important post is confided to him, he must be indefatigably watchful and enduring, so that his comrades behind him may be able to rest without concern or to follow him without danger.

It is a noble and right feeling for the soldier to think that 'My comrades can sleep as I am awake,' 'My comrades have nothing to fear as I watch the enemy.'

So important, and so troublesome also is this duty, that both his superiors and comrades will respect and honour the soldier who performs it with intelligence and care, while his country will not fail to thank, and reward him.

The soldier should look around him at those of his officers and fellow soldiers who have received rewards from their sovereign; he should resolve when his turn comes, and he has to maintain the honour of his country, that he will not be found wanting: but that by his courage, obedience to discipline, and careful watchfulness, he will prove himself worthy of the regiment to which he belongs, and of the country which owns him.

CHAPTER II.

SOME DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES RELATING TO FIELD-DUTY.

CHAP. II.

Definitions and explanations.

THE duties of a campaign are not confined to marching and fighting, the comfort and repose of troops have also to be attended to, whenever they halt, or when from other reasons their movements are suspended.

Troops are said to be either in *Cantonments*, *Camps*, or *Bivouacs*.

1. In *Cantonments*, if they are quartered in villages or inhabited places.

2. In *Camp*, when they are lodged in tents or huts.

3. In *Bivouacs*, when they have to spend the night, or permanently continue, in the open air.

Cantonments afford greater ease and comfort than a Camp or Bivouac; as, however, it is impossible to find accommodation for a large number of men in one place, Cantonments can only be used when the enemy is at a distance and the troops few in number.

Camps are used for large bodies of troops, and when it is probable that they will be required to remain some time in the same place.

Bivouacs are used for one night, or longer, accord-

CHAP. II.

ing to circumstances; and, unless wood and straw can be procured, they are devoid of all comfort. When the enemy is very near, troops must always bivouac, as thereby they are much safer than in a cantonment, and can turn out more quickly.

Guards on the march.

Troops on the march, in an enemy's country or in the vicinity of an enemy, provide for their safety by means of an Advance Guard, Rear Guard, and Side Patrols.

An Advance Guard is a small detachment which marches some distance in front of a larger body to secure its safety.

A Rear Guard similarly with the same object marches in rear; and Advance and Rear Guards are themselves also secured by means of single men who are called reconnoitrers.

Side Patrols guard the flank of marching troops; similarly these are also guarded by individual men who are called 'Flankers.'

In order that troops while halted may really enjoy rest and comfort, they are surrounded by outposts in the direction of the enemy.

Explanation of outposts.

In the immediate vicinity of the enemy, the duty of providing for the safety of the army is confided to Guards, from whom double sentries are sent out, called in Cavalry vedettes. These Guards, or as they may be called Field-Picquets, have supports, which are intended to reinforce them when attacked, and also to hold any important points between them and the main body. These supports are each divided

Field-picquets.

into two portions, the one (Active support) advances and reinforces the advanced Picquet when attacked, the other (Reserve support) does not quit its position, but assists the Picquet if the latter has to retreat. The word 'outposts' is used to express the entire body of picquets, with their supports. The line of the same is called the line of outposts, or if they are in close connection with each other, the chain of outposts. In a similar manner we speak of the chain of vedettes.

Supports.

The safety of the outposts is secured by means of *patrols* as well as *vedettes*.

Patrols.

A Patrol is a detachment which is employed to obtain information regarding the enemy, the nature of the ground, or to keep up the communications between bodies of friendly troops.

If the surface of the ground is level and clear, the country is said to be 'open;' if, on the other hand, it is grown over with trees or bushes, or interspersed with hedges, if it is hilly, swampy, cut up by ditches, or a river, if there are ponds, lakes, &c., then the country is said to be 'cut up' or 'enclosed.'

Ground.

A *Defile* is a narrow road or pass, which goes through an impassable piece of ground, for example, bridges, ravines, embankments, lanes, paths through woods, streets through a village or town. A 'defile,' in fact, is any spot where, on the march or in position, it is impossible to have an extended front.

Defiles.

In order to make oneself acquainted with one's position in any neighbourhood, it is above all things

Method of discovering the

CHAP. II.

position of any spot.

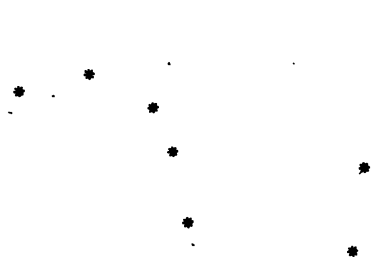
necessary to know the points of the compass. If one point is known, it is easy to find the others. Thus if a man stands with his face to the north, the east is to his right, the south to his rear, and the west to his left; the spaces between the north and east, between the east and south, are called north-east, south-east, respectively, and so on.

Means of recognising the quarters of the heaven.

The Quarters of the Heaven may be recognised by the following signs. In the day-time, the sun is in the east at 6 o'clock in the morning, in the south-east at 9 o'clock in the morning, in the south at 12 o'clock, and in the south-west at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Towards the north-west the bark of trees is thicker and coarser than on the other sides. Trees, old posts, rocks, standing stones, are rough, uneven, and mossy also. Heaps of earth are generally overgrown on this side. In stumps of trees that have been cut down, the rings that mark the yearly growth are narrower on the north-west than on the other sides. Similarly, the earth under large stones in the fields is generally moister on this side. Trees, old posts, the crosses on graves as a rule bend over towards the south-west. Churches are almost always built east and west, that is to say, the altar being at the east, the steeple at the west end.

Streams also assist in reconnoitring, standing with the back up stream, on the right hand is always the 'right bank,' on the left the 'left bank' of the river, and in front its mouth. Streams always flow down hill.

At night it is very easy to tell the points of the compass from the stars. There is a group of stars, which it is almost impossible to mistake, and which have something like the following position :—



Imagine a line drawn through both the stars that lie furthest to the right to be produced to a very clear brilliant star: this is called the north star, and always remains in the north. By means of this help, the points of the compass can always be discovered.

The moon also has the following position :—

Full Moon	First Quarter	Last Quarter	
6 o'clock even.	—	12 o'clock night	East
12 o'clock night	6 o'clock even.	6 o'clock morn.	South
6 o'clock morn.	12 o'clock night	—	West

Reconnoitring is the act of making oneself acquainted with the peculiarities of any locality or with the position of the enemy. Reconnoitring.

A Surprise is a sudden and unexpected attack. If troops are surprised they are taken at a great disad- Surprises.

CHAP. II.

vantage. It is impossible to be surprised if the outposts are properly placed, and if they do their duty.

Ambuscades.

An Ambuscade is a concealed position, from which troops surprise the enemy. This position must be selected in the neighbourhood of a locality which the enemy is obliged to pass.

Convoys.

A Convoy is a collection of waggons and carriages, with munitions of war, provisions, wounded men, or prisoners, the term is also applied to horses or cattle, which have to be conveyed from one place to another. A convoy is always accompanied by an 'escort' or detachment of troops, which conducts and protects it. Couriers, officers on important duty, &c. are also escorted. In peace times escorts are also afforded as guards of honour, and are then generally furnished by cavalry.

Beacons.

A Beacon is a tree, wound round with inflammable materials, and which is lighted as a pre-arranged signal. Beacons as far as possible are placed on spots so selected that their flames by night, and by day their smoke, may be visible a long way off. Troops, who have beacons entrusted to their charge, must always detail a beacon-sentry, whose sole duty it is to watch other beacons, and to light his own, or report the circumstances, as the case may be.

Flag of truce.

A person bearing a Flag of Truce is an envoy from the enemy, usually an officer, who conveys a written or verbal message to the general or other officer in command. The person who brings it is known by the fact of his being accompanied by a trumpeter, or

bugler, who sounds, or by his waving a flag, or showing other signs of peaceful intentions.

Spies.

A Spy is a scout sent by the enemy to obtain secret information regarding the strength or movements of the troops opposed to him. Spies generally wear the dress of the country to escape detection. As a rule, if captured, they are sentenced to be shot.

The Laws and Customs of War.

Non-combatants.

Non-combatants, and more particularly doctors, are never to be treated as enemies, unless when they themselves bear arms and fight, or give assistance to the enemy. In European armies doctors and clergymen wear a white band with a red cross on their left arms above the elbow. The natives of an enemy's country are only to be treated with severity, if they take a part directly or indirectly in the contest, or withhold what has been requisitioned of them.

It is the duty of every good soldier to protect women, children, or old men.

Laws and customs of war.

Private property is to be respected, if its owners conduct themselves peaceably; that is to say unless other orders are given. The property of those, who are found with arms in their hands, as also that of sutlers and contractors, is to be regarded as booty.

Munitions of war, provisions, &c., more particularly military chests, must be handed over to the superior authorities, to be disposed of as they direct. Captured horses belong to the State, and are to be sent to horse-

CHAP. II.

depôts. Certain rewards are given for every horse, and for every cannon or flag captured in fair fight.

All private property of the subjects of a friendly or neutral power must be respected. Troops generally receive a certain fixed salvage money from the owner, if however he cannot be discovered, the property in question reverts to them.

Those who take booty without permission, and who plunder or extort money, are severely punished.

CHAPTER III.

PRECAUTIONS THAT HAVE TO BE TAKEN ON THE MARCH.

When and How these Precautions have to be Adopted.

CHAP. III.

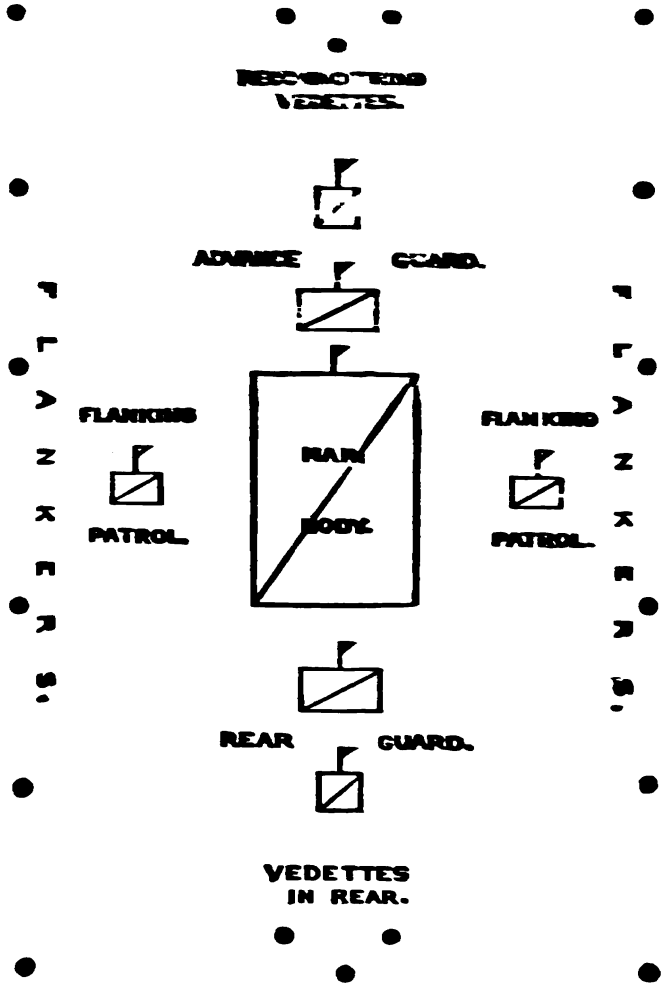
The march.

As it is impossible that troops on the march should always be in a state of immediate readiness to fight, a portion of them is detached, as it were in a circle, to give such timely notice of the approach of the enemy as will enable the main body to get in readiness to meet him.

These guards are divided into the Advance Guard, Rear Guard, and Side Patrols, and must always be made use of in an enemy's country, or when there is a possibility of attack.

Even the smallest detachments must adopt these precautions, and all the rules laid down apply equally to them. The strength of these detachments before alluded to, depends on the nature of the ground, on the position of the enemy, on the size of the main body, and on other circumstances — similarly also the distance they have to keep from the remainder of the force.

The following is the order in which troops should march :—


RECONNOITRING
VEDETTES.
ADVANCE GUARD.
FLANKING
PATROL.
MAIN
BODY.
FLANKING
PATROL.
REAR GUARD.
VEDETTES
IN REAR.

If the ground is open, it is best to employ cavalry, since from the rapidity with which they move they can be sent out far from the main body, and can quickly convey reports to the columns on the march.

Use of cavalry.

In an enclosed country cavalry are less frequently used for such purposes, but to suppose that they are never to be used is a mistaken idea unworthy of a cavalry soldier. Cavalry should, if possible, be employed as flankers, and under any circumstances mounted orderlies should accompany the infantry to carry reports.

The Connection and Communications of the various Detachments with each other and with the Main Body.

Preservation of communication and connection.

The communication of the vedettes and flankers with Advance and Rear Guards, and Side Patrols respectively must be perfectly maintained, so that the protecting circle may in no place be broken, and that from the first vedette of the Advance Guard, down to the last vedette of the Rear Guard, each soldier may know where his next neighbour is, and how he can communicate with him. For this reason, whenever any of the detachments in advance come to a spot where it is possible that the communication may be broken, one man should always remain halted until those in rear come within sight,—thus, for example, on the march, when there is no clear view in front, as round corners, through woods, in

CHAP. III.

hilly ground, in defiles, at cross-roads, in misty or snowy weather, and more especially at night. When the man who has halted can see those behind him, he should trot on and join his comrades.

At a halt.

When the main body halts the covering detachments must halt also, and maintain the same position as they held on the march. The Advance and Rear Guards thus become Field-Picquets, the reconnoitrers become stationary vedettes, and all without further orders must at once take up their new duties.

The Rear Guard and vedettes in rear must face about, the flankers and flanking parties must face outwards, and all must take up a position from whence they will have a clear view, and may be able to detect a long way off the approach of the enemy. In the event of there being hills, either directly in front, or somewhat to the side of the Advance Guard, or flanking parties, these must be occupied, similarly the Rear Guard should turn back, and hold any heights which they have lately crossed. During a halt, the communications between all the detachments and the main body must be carefully maintained. When the march is resumed, all proceed as before.

The Duties of Detached Parties Generally.

Duties of detached parties.

It may be said that the vedettes, flankers, and patrols are the eyes of the main body, they must see

without being seen, they must carefully note everything relating to the enemy or of military importance. It is absolutely indispensable carefully to examine every spot, where it is possible that an enemy might be concealed. If a vedette or other reconnoitrer observes anything, which has, or might have connection with the enemy, such as troops on the march, clouds of dust, fire, smoke, &c., or if he sees any traces of troops on the march, hears firing, or unusual noise, he must immediately report the same, not however before he has had time to note in his mind what has appeared to his outward senses. While he makes his report, his comrade must remain in observation.

Reports.

It is very important that whoever makes the report should not ride away too soon, he must first observe all the circumstances which can throw additional light on it. For instance, if he sees clouds of dust, he should first of all remark the description of troops by which these clouds are raised, in what formation they are in, their strength, and the direction in which they are marching, whether the column is covered, and what is its exact position. The bare report 'that the enemy has appeared,' is of very little use to a commander, unless it is accompanied by the information as to what description of enemy it is, how strong, and where he is.

Reports regarding details of ground, such as roads, embankments, bridges, fords, streams, ditches, woods, hills, villages, &c., must be complete, and must keep in view military requirements.

CHAP. III.

The soldier who has to make the report must be careful not to say too little, nor must he be led away through timidity to regard anything greater than it really is. The report must be exact in accordance with fact, and every exaggeration must be avoided.

Cavalry soldiers, when they give their report must ride at attention, as the regulations lay down.

Form of Reports.

The report is to be made in the following form:—

'*It is reported* by the vedettes of the Advance Guard' (or 'by the light flanks,' &c.)

Written reports should be headed, for example, with the words:—

'Report from the Rear Guard' (or 'from the patrol of Corporal—').

Indications useful in making reports.

Certain signs and indications will assist the soldier to form correct observations. Thus it is tolerably easy to ascertain from the form of a cloud of dust the description of troops who raised it.

When infantry are marching the dust is low and thick, the glitter of their weapons may also be observed. In the case of cavalry the dust is higher, and as cavalry move quickly, the upper portion of the cloud is thinner and soon disappears.

Artillery and waggons, on the other hand, raise clouds of dust, which are unequal in height, and are disconnected. Hence from the length of the line of dust, and from the intervals in it, one can judge of the strength of a column, and how it is formed. The effect, however, of the wind must also be taken into account.

If at night the flames of camp-fires disappear, and then again become visible, it is evident that something is moving between the observer and the fires. If in addition to the flame, smoke is also visible, then the fire must be very near. Should it be remarked that many fires are lighted, it is probable that this is done by the enemy to mislead us, and that he intends to march off. If the fires burn very clearly and brightly, then it may be conjectured that the enemy has already withdrawn. If also at an unusual time, much smoke is seen to ascend from the enemy's camp, then it is probable that they are engaged in cooking, preparatory to moving off. If in any place many chimneys are seen to be smoking, then it may be supposed that the place itself has been occupied. If on approaching a village, a continuous barking of dogs or neighing of horses is to be heard, then in all probability it is held by troops.

How reports should be forwarded.

If important information is brought to the main portion of the Advance, Rear, or other Guard, whoever commands it should ride quickly to the place where he himself can judge of the correctness or otherwise of what he has heard, and report the same in writing. If it is a matter in which haste is required, he should send the report by word of mouth.

In all cases where the reports have to be sent on, those soldiers should be employed to carry them who themselves have seen or heard what they have to report, and thus can best give the officer in command a distinct explanation. The place of a vedette thus

CHAP. III.

employed must be filled up from the main body of the guard; the vedette on his return will take the place of the man who relieved him. If on his way to make the report he meets any of his superiors he should quickly communicate to them the information he is carrying. He must not, however, allow himself to be detained, or prevented from riding to his original destination.

Some rules for reconnoitrers, &c.

If reconnoitrers, flankers, &c., come across friendly troops they should report themselves to the officer in command, they should inform themselves regarding his name and rank, also regarding the strength and destination of the detachment he commands, and should report the same to their own commander.

All Advance, Rear, Guards, Flanking Parties and detached troops should have arms loaded, and ready for use. Vedettes and flankers should have their carbines and pistols ready drawn, but at half-cock. If, however, they have to examine ground, or if the enemy is so near as to render it necessary, their carbines and pistols must be cocked.

CHAPTER IV.

ADVANCE GUARDS.

CHAP. IV.

Advance guard.

Its object.

THE Advance Guard is sent on in front to discover the enemy, to give information regarding him; to drive back any small detachments that might hinder or disturb the march; to hold any large bodies in check until the main portion of the army can get ready to engage them, and finally to remove any obstacles or impediments that may be on the road.

How safety secured.

To secure its own safety the Advance Guard sends out an advanced party, which in its turn sends out three reconnoitrers; there must also be at least two flankers on each side. The remainder, that is to say about one half of the whole, constitutes the main body of the Advance Guard. Thus we see that the Advance Guard is divided into three portions, namely, reconnoitrers, advanced party, and main body. When the detachment is very small the advanced party may be dispensed with, but no detachment, however small, should march without reconnoitrers.

Duty of reconnoitrers and flankers.

The reconnoitrers should see without being seen, should hear without being heard, and should quickly acquaint their leader with anything that they have

CHAP. IV.

discovered. They march two men in front, the third follows some distance in rear, acts as their leader, and preserves the communication with the advanced party of the Advance Guard. The reconnoitrers should know whither they are to march, and to avoid mistakes should write down the names of the places through which they have to pass. If they have any doubt regarding the road they should communicate with their comrades in rear. In the latter case the commander of the advanced party should halt, and send on the reconnoitrers to points where they will have a clear view, supporting them with patrols. He is held responsible that the road is clear, the reconnoitrers being in his charge. As a rule as soon as the latter come to any place where there is not a clear view, the patrols should at once move forward, and see that the ground on each side of the road is clear. It is very essential that all this should be done quickly and without hesitation, so that the steady onward movement of the main body may not be checked, unless in case of absolute necessity.

How reconnoitrers and flankers should examine ground.

The reconnoitrers and flankers must march with the greatest caution, and must carefully search every spot within their reach, where an enemy might be concealed, such as coppices, ravines, villages, &c. When they come to a corner they should first look round it, and if they see nothing suspicious then ride on. If they come to a spot, which from its extent they cannot examine without assistance, one should ride back, and report the same, while the two others conceal them-

selves, and wait for reinforcements from the Advance Guard. They must ride cautiously into a defile, one after another; paths at the side should be examined by flankers, at a trot. If there is no sign of the enemy the reconnoitrers should remain in observation on each side of the defile until the entire Advance Guard has trotted through it. When the reconnoitrers are examining a defile, the advanced party should remain halted in observation in front of it. In all defiles, more especially those which cannot be seen through, reconnoitrers and flankers should trot on in front, so as not to delay those who follow. If the defile is through a *ravine*, one of the reconnoitrers must ride along the top, the other along the bottom. If the sides are steep, and the ravine long, one man must dismount, walk up the side, and look about him; having done this, he should remount his horse.

Defiles.

If a *wood* has to be examined, the reconnoitrers should separate and ride along the edge; if nothing is to be seen of the enemy, they may then ride inside. If it is possible to ride off the paths, then the men, searching it, should form themselves into a line, with intervals corresponding to the breadth of the wood itself, and should thus go through it. If on the other hand the wood is too thick to permit this, all the roads and footpaths should be traversed at a trot, the men frequently looking round to see that there is no sign of the enemy behind them. They must also listen for the tread of marching troops, and should pay especial attention to all tracks and footmarks; it may be re-

Woods.

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marked that these are often effaced by boughs of trees being dragged on the ground, this device, however, can be easily detected.

If the wood is not too large, at least one flanker should ride round each side of it at a trot. When the reconnoitrers come to the end of the wood, they should not ride immediately out of it, but concealing themselves should watch to see if there are any signs of the enemy in the ground before them. In large woods a space to the distance of a hundred paces on each side of the road should be searched.

Hills.

Should there be a hill or rising ground on the road, or near it, one of the reconnoitrers should trot on, and look over the crest at the country round. He should not ride quite up to the top, as then he might be seen from the other side. When great caution is required, he should uncover his head; lancers should drop their lances. If he sees the enemy's troops, or detects anything suspicious, he should beckon[1] to his comrade to come up and consult with him. The first

[1] It cannot be too strongly recommended that soldiers should be accustomed to communicate with one another by signs when on field-duty. Such a means of communication is more especially useful when the enemy is near, as often a word or a movement would betray a man's presence. The Cossacks have brought this system of using signs to great perfection, so much so that as a rule they do not ride backwards and forwards to make reports, but convey the same by signs, even when they are of considerable length; in case of necessity intermediate sentries are posted so that one can see the other.

In many armies the non-commissioned officers of light troops are provided with signal whistles; by this means time will be saved and the strength of horses husbanded.

reconnoitrer should then ride back and report the matter, while the other remains on the spot, and continues to watch.

Inhabited places.

Reconnoitrers must approach with caution any place that is inhabited, and must endeavour to catch one of its inhabitants. If, however, this cannot be done, a man must ride up to the first house, and enquire if the enemy are in the place, and what is known regarding them. The reconnoitrers must detain one of the inhabitants until, with the assistance of other men sent on by the Advance Guard, they have searched the main and side streets, and the larger courtyards. The magistrate or principal person in the place must also be examined, and detained until all danger is past.

Single reconnoitrers should be sent to ride round the spot; while they do this, the approaches and outlets should be occupied, the Advance Guard holding that one, through which the march will be continued. When the place has been thoroughly searched, they should ride on to where they can get a clear view of the country round. While great caution is to be observed in the search of all such ground, there must be no unnecessary delay. In places which are too large to be searched, it is advisable to secure and detain the principal inhabitants.

If the place is occupied by the enemy, the reconnoitrers should withdraw, if possible without being seen, and should promptly report the circumstance;

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the inhabitant, who has been questioned, should be taken back to the advance guard as quietly as possible.

If at night the reconnoitrers come to any place which is inhabited, one or two men should dismount; they should not venture into the main street, as it may be occupied by the enemy, but should glide through gardens, &c., to where they see a light in a window; they should then watch and listen. If there are no signs of the enemy they should knock and enquire. If, however, there is no light anywhere, and no house is so far detached as to render it prudent to arouse its inhabitants, then the only course is to watch until they can capture some one. If the place is occupied by the enemy they must then proceed as by day, only with additional caution.

Should there be no sign of the enemy the Advance Guard is to be again formed, and the march continued.

The main body of the Advance Guard should always remain halted out of shot in front of every defile, until the reconnoitrers have reported that the enemy are not there, and that the defile is passable.

If the road is impassable.

Should the reconnoitrers find the road altogether impassable, or impracticable for cavalry and artillery, blocked up by barricades, or broken down bridges, &c., they must endeavour to make their way round the obstruction, in any case always reporting the matter. It will then rest with the commander of the Advance Guard to give further orders for the mending of the road, or for clearing it, as the case may be.

When single soldiers, deserters, travellers, &c., are

met with, they should be first questioned regarding the enemy and then conducted to the Advance Guard.

If they perceive the enemy.

Should the reconnoitrers see the enemy they should conceal themselves, continue to watch him, and immediately report the fact. Under no circumstances should an attack be made, or a shot fired, unless there be no other means of giving timely warning to the Advance Guard of the proximity of danger. It by no means follows that because the enemy is very near he should therefore be fired at, as this would betray the presence of the main body. In such cases young soldiers must not think of themselves, or gratify their love of fighting, but must regard only what would be best for the entire army to which they belong.

Should the enemy have remarked the reconnoitrers, then the commander of the advance should ride quickly forward, and decide, if, and how he is to be attacked.

If the enemy should himself make an attack, then the advanced party should maintain the fight for a while, or if forced to retire, should do so slowly, so as to prevent the main-body of the Advance Guard being surprised. It is best for the advanced party, and the reconnoitrers together to extend into a line, which out-flanks the main body, and if necessary retires on one of its flanks. Should infantry or artillery come up into action in support the front must be at once so cleared as to allow their fire free scope.

If it should happen that from the ground not having been properly searched, a detachment of the enemy

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appears in the rear of reconnoitrers, they should immediately fire so as to warn their comrades in rear, while all near attack the enemy in front, flank, and rear. In the event of a shot being fired by any of the flanking patrols, the reconnoitrers must immediately halt, send word to the Advance Guard, wait for orders, and draw back if necessary so as to be level with the flankers. In this case the advance party should immediately send support to the flanking patrol, from whence the shot has proceeded.

Advanced party.

The *advanced party* is more especially intended to support the reconnoitrers in case they are attacked by the enemy, and to assist in examining the ground through which they pass.

When necessary at least two men should be detached on each side to search the ground on the flanks. One of these rides level with the leader of the reconnoitrers, the other level with the advanced party itself. They must keep in communication with the flankers of the main body.

When the ground is open the advanced party should march about two or three hundred paces in rear of the reconnoitrers, and should never lose sight of them; when the ground is not open, at night, or in misty weather, this distance must be diminished and immediate communication must be maintained.

It should be arranged that a guide, if possible mounted, should accompany the Advance Guard; he should be handed over to the especial charge of one man. These guides must be selected with great

caution; gamekeepers, poachers, shepherds, cattle drovers, post-boys, smugglers, messengers, &c., can generally be employed with advantage. They must not however be too often changed, and too much confidence must not be placed in their knowledge of the country. They are not to be dismissed until any treachery on their part would do no harm. In an enemy's country, if possible two guides should always be employed; they ought never to be permitted to speak to one another; they should moreover be bound so as to prevent their escaping, and, if riding, should have their feet tied in the stirrups. The man who has charge of the guide should keep hold of the snaffle bridle of the horse ridden by the guide, and have his pistol or carbine (as the case may be) ready to use. In all cases guides should be threatened with death if they lead astray, but otherwise they should be well treated.

Main portion of advance guard.

The main portion of the Advance Guard should act as circumstances require, according to the judgment or special instructions received by its commander, who should be cool, determined, and in difficulties should have perfect confidence in himself. In open ground it should keep about 500 paces from the advanced party, and must provide supports for all the parties which are detached from it.

It should pass through all defiles at a trot, after it has been announced that they are not occupied by the enemy; it must furnish patrols to search any spots that are more distant and require examination.

One of the most important duties of the Advance

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Guard is to clear and repair the road, so that the main body may not be delayed in its march. On the approach of the enemy, the Advance Guard should form up for battle, and its commander should send a report, if possible in writing to the main body, after he has personally made himself acquainted with the circumstances, and has made the necessary arrangements. In any case where the officer commanding a detachment has to quit it, even for a moment, he should hand over the command to the next senior.

When the enemy is in the neighbourhood, a halt should never be made in a village, or in any place that is inhabited; it is better that the Advance Guard should go round the village, and if it requires supplies, cause them to be conveyed outside for purchase.

When the columns of march are long, or when circumstances require it, there should be a reserve between the main body and the Advance Guard, and communication should be carefully maintained between these various portions. If there is reason to fear the enemy in front, then the Advance Guard may be reduced, and in some cases, need only consist of reconnoitrers, and what is usually termed the advanced party.

CHAPTER V.

REAR GUARDS.

CHAP. V.

Rear guards.

Duties.

THE Rear Guard is intended to protect the main body from an attack of the enemy in rear. It must, therefore, not hesitate if necessary to sacrifice itself, and, even when at a disadvantage, must maintain a combat so long as to enable the remainder of the force to get out of danger.

According to circumstance, a portion or the whole of the Rear Guard will march in a constant state of readiness for action.

In a retreat.

In a retreat the Rear Guard is in the same position as the Advance Guard is in an advance, and must be disposed in a similar manner. It is essential that communication shall be carefully maintained between the flankers, reconnoitrers, and various portions of the Rear Guard. The flankers that are supplied by the rear detachment should ride level with it, and with the commander of the reconnoitrers, riding one behind the other, and keeping up the communication with the flankers of the main body. When the enemy

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is in front, and no danger to be feared in rear, the Rear Guard may be reduced in size.[1]

The various portions of the Rear Guard should conduct themselves in the same manner as the Advance Guard, the only difference being, that they are in the inverse order, and that while the Advance Guard has to press and follow up the enemy, they have to retire before him. The task of the Rear Guard is thus by no means easy, since on every halt or engagement with the foe, it becomes further removed from the main body of its own force, and thus the less able to reckon on its support.

The duties of the Rear Guard are more especially difficult when the army is retiring, and after a defeat, when the enemy generally pursues vigorously, and by means of flank attacks attempts to cut off the line of retreat. The Reconnoitrers will sometimes be able to foretell these attacks by the diminution in the size of the force following in their rear.

The Rear Guard follows the road, on which the main-body is marching, communications must continually be kept up between the two, more particularly at night. It must take care that too great an interval does not at any time intervene between it and the rest of the force, while it maintains the most perfect order, and the strictest discipline.

The Rear Guard should use its utmost endeavours to avoid drawing the main body into a conflict. It

[1] In an advance a Rear Detachment is formed for police and administrative purposes, and is not reckoned in the fighting force.

should not under any circumstances permit stragglers or sick to remain behind; if necessary, carriages and horses must be requisitioned for the latter. If this is not practicable, they should formally be handed over to the care of the local authorities.

On a retreat the Rear Guard must take especial care that no war-material, that could be useful to the enemy, falls into their hands; if it cannot be removed, it should be rendered useless. If this war-material has been left behind by the main body, conveyances should if possible be requisitioned, and it should be forwarded to the front.

If a defile has to be passed this must be done so quickly as to avoid all danger of being cut off or driven into it. Perhaps also there may be an opportunity of turning it to account, and of keeping in check by means of it a superior force of the enemy. This can be often effected by barricades or by breaking down a bridge.[1]

By availing itself of ground and cover the Rear Guard may often with great advantage attack an

[1] It is often a good plan previously to loosen the planks of a bridge, so that the troops that cross last can easily remove them in front of the enemy. Gates, narrow roads, and paths can be best barricaded by means of carts loaded with dung, &c., dovetailed into one another; one wheel however should be taken off each of them. Fords are rendered impassable by means of harrows, ploughs and scythes, so arranged that the sharp points and sides are uppermost. The longer the enemy is kept under fire by means of these obstacles the better. In the defence of a defile, in many cases it is necessary to fight dismounted, when skirmishers armed with carbines, if properly posted and covered, will be found of great use.

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enemy while in the act of passing through a defile, before he has had time to deploy. It is very important that the Rear Guard should know the proper moment to withdraw from before an enemy.

The remarks made, and rules laid down respecting the duties of the various portions of the Advance Guard apply equally to the corresponding portions of the Rear Guard. Between the rear detachment, one man should march at a fixed distance as leader of the reconnoitrers, and as a connecting link between them and the rest, two men follow him and bring up the rear of the entire column of march. The reconnoitrers must frequently halt, more particularly at those points from which they have an extensive view. They must then face about and watch if there is any sign of the enemy. Whenever also the main body halts the Rear Guard must face to their rear, the flanking parties and flankers to their respective outward flanks.

CHAPTER VI.

FLANKING PARTIES.

CHAP. VI.

Duties of Flankers and Flanking parties.

FLANKERS are intended to protect the flanks of columns on the march from attacks and reconnaissances. They must, therefore, thoroughly examine all the ground which lies on each side of the column, and act in the same manner as has been laid down for the guidance of Advance and Rear Guards.

We have seen that the Advance and Rear Guards have to send out flanking parties which also themselves detach single flankers on their outer flanks. In communication with these are side patrols detached from the main body; these also are covered by reconnoitrers and flankers. The side patrols march level with the main body, with which they must maintain their communication at night by means of intermediate detachments and sentries.

The distance between the side patrols and the main body must depend on circumstances; there must, however, be no intermediate ground which has not been thoroughly searched and examined.

In the event of there being any large spaces on a flank which are impassable, such as lakes, morasses, &c.,

the patrols should not go round them, but should withdraw behind the Advance Guard, and then again resume their proper place as soon as the ground permits.

Side patrols must endeavour, like Advance and Rear Guards, to do what is required of them without being seen by the enemy; for this reason they should march as much as possible under cover. In the event of there being ridges or heights parallel to the line of march, the patrols should march below them, while the individual flankers should follow the ridge in single file, keeping at such a level that they can look over it, and see what is on the other side.

Whenever it is possible, flanking patrols should make a detour round defiles, and more particularly places that are inhabited. While marching through a wood, flanking patrols remain in their usual place; the flankers, however, should ride inside round the wood. When necessary communication must be kept up between the various detachments, flankers, &c., by means of intermediate sentries. If the side patrols come to cross roads or defiles, these must be occupied until the column has passed.

Flanking parties should, when possible, avoid a collision with the enemy, but should hold him in check on the flank. If they are forced to retire, it should be into an interval of the column, in order that they may neither mask its fire nor throw it into confusion. If the column halts, all the flanking parties should face outwards.

In the event of there being any spot out of the reach of flanking patrols, but which should be examined or occupied while the column is near, a Flanking *Detachment* should then be sent out. This observes all the same precautions and follows the same rules as have been laid down for other detachments on the march.

CHAPTER VII.

SECRET MARCHES BY NIGHT, ETC.

CHAP. VII.

Secret marches by night, &c.

NIGHT marches should if possible be avoided by cavalry, since their horses suffer in consequence.

If the locality is not accurately known, a trustworthy guide is very necessary.

The strictest discipline must be maintained, and all the detachments must be kept on the alert. All detached parties, reconnoitrers, flankers, &c., should be nearer together than by day, and should be drawn in closer to the column; the requisite communication being maintained between separate detachments by means of intermediate posts. During night marches, reconnoitrers and flankers should frequently halt and listen, since the darkness prevents their seeing. The best view can be obtained against the horizon; hence it is a good plan for cavalry soldiers to dismount, place themselves under their horse's neck, and look upwards, for the objects to be observed thus appear higher to the spectator.

If the reconnoitrers or any detached parties come to bye roads, one man should remain halted until those that follow come up, so that no mistake may

occur. Bivouac-fires must be approached with the greatest caution, and every attempt made to find out who are at them—sometimes the language spoken may afford a clue; in order to hear this a man should dismount and crawl up near the fire.

Rules to be observed.

If the march is to be kept secret, it will as a rule take place by night. All noise must be avoided; soldiers should only be allowed to speak to one another in a low tone of voice, and should not be permitted to strike a light, or smoke. Main roads and inhabited places must if possible be avoided. People met on the road must be made to accompany the column until any information they may give can do no more harm. The parties detailed to secure the safety of the column should as far as possible be curtailed lest, by being seen, they should serve to betray the march to the enemy.

As rapidity of movement is always the object of a secret march, when possible those men should be selected to form the Advance Guard who are best acquainted with the art of mending roads.

CHAPTER VIII.

PATROLS.

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Patrols.

General principles.

PATROLS are detachments sent out to obtain information regarding the enemy, the country, or any military matters, or to preserve communications. As a rule they are not intended to fight themselves, and should avoid a collision with the enemy, unless they can only attain their object by this means, or are especially ordered to make prisoners. The strength of the Patrol depends on the duties they have to perform, and on the nature of the country in which they act.

Duties of the commander of a patrol.

The commander of a Patrol must be careful, cautious and intelligent; he must make himself thoroughly acquainted with his orders, and must clear up every doubt regarding them before he starts. The commander of a Patrol, whenever it is sent out, receives his instructions from the officer commanding the detachment, by which it is furnished; on his return he has also to report himself to this officer. He should be provided with written orders, and while conducting the Patrol should carefully observe anything that bears directly or indirectly on the instructions he

has received. He should note everything that is of interest, and furnish a complete and clear report of the same.

A commander of Patrols must be indifferent to danger, and must disregard his own comfort in the discharge of his duties. A false report is disgraceful, and entails punishment; an incomplete one is worse than none at all, as the officer in command may thereby be misled, and faulty dispositions made. He should also if possible himself test the capabilities of the men under his command, and turn them to the best account. The main object in view is to obtain information regarding the enemy; diligent enquiries must therefore be made as to when they were seen, and in what strength, of what description of troops their force was composed, how long they halted, in what condition they appeared to be, what they did, what were the questions they asked, by what road they withdrew, whether they took any guides with them, and whether they had yet returned, &c. Post office and other officials, clergymen, leading inhabitants, magistrates, hotel keepers, Jews, and gamekeepers, will generally be able to give Patrols the best information. Children should more especially be questioned, since they are less likely to tell what is untrue.

Object of a patrol.

The most intelligent soldiers and the best horses should be selected for patrol duty; the latter should be spared as much as possible, in order that if required at some future time they may have some remaining strength available. As a rule, white horses,

Rules to be observed.

CHAP. VIII.

greys, and those inclined to neigh, should not be used for this work.

The orders, and also any information which has been obtained, should be communicated by the commander to the men under him, so that if anything happens to him the duties may still be performed. In case any of the men should go astray, or the Patrol should be scattered, a spot ought to be appointed for a general rendezvous.

As a general rule Patrols should return by a different road from that by which they marched out; by this means they will collect more information, and are less likely to be surprised. If it is necessary to halt and feed the horses, this must not be done in inhabited places, least of all at public houses, but in a solitary and secluded spot, which should be guarded against surprise by the usual sentries posted in concealed positions.

Precautions to be taken

Every Patrol should detach a reconnoitrer both before and behind, and under some circumstances flankers also, but at least half the entire strength must remain in the main portion of the Patrol. Any men who are detached in addition to the two reconnoitrers should be drawn in as soon as circumstances permit. At night the flankers must be always drawn in, if their communication with the main Patrol is not perfectly secured.

at night.

At night a Patrol must trust to its ears rather than to its eyes, and therefore must often halt and listen. In order to do this the more effectually, a man should

occasionally dismount, and place his ear on the ground. Any noise should be forbidden, as also smoking. It is best to go through woodlands in small detachments, which follow each other at short intervals.

If patrols meet the enemy.

If a Patrol sees the enemy, it should immediately report the fact, and having posted a watch, if possible without being perceived, it should retrace its steps very quietly, after it has accomplished the object for which it was sent out. If the enemy has seen it, the Patrol should retire firing briskly, so as to give notice to the main body. Should, however, it fail to escape, or to cut its way through, the commander should allow the men to scatter, in order that some may get away, and take the news home. If there is no important information to convey, a Patrol that is cut off should endeavour to make its way back by means of a detour, or under the cover of night.

If they meet other patrols.

If Patrols meet each other at night they should challenge. The one that challenges first acts like a vedette, and demands the parole and countersign. If it is discovered that they are friends, the respective commanders should communicate to each other anything that is of importance, or that they have learnt regarding the enemy.

If, on the other hand, the reconnoitrers meet a hostile party or fall upon the enemy unexpectedly, the Patrol should immediately attack and endeavour to surprise them.

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A few men have in such cases often effected much, provided they only possess courage and presence of mind, combined with intelligence. Many commanders, by blowing trumpets, &c., make the enemy believe that they have to deal with a large body of troops. *The more dangerous the situation is, the quieter and more discreet must be the soldier, and more especially the officer in command.* If the attack fails the men must separate, and each endeavour to reach the place of assembly, which has previously been settled.

Small patrols should, when required, have their fire-arms drawn and ready for use. When the Patrols are large it is only necessary for the reconnoitrers and those who are detached to adopt such precautions.

Various kinds of patrols.

Patrols are divided into Reconnoitring Patrols (Secret or Sly Patrols belong to this class), Pursuing Patrols, and Communicating or Connecting Patrols.

Reconnoitring patrols.

Reconnoitring Patrols are of a strength proportioned to the distance which they will have to go; they should not be so weak as to be obliged to retire before small detachments of the enemy, without having effected their object, or so strong as to attract the enemy's attention. Their commander should, if possible, be provided with a good map, and a mounted guide should accompany them. The object for which they are sent out, namely, to obtain information regarding the enemy, or regarding some portion of country, is generally distinctly laid down.

Their strength.

Precautions to be adopted.

The Patrol secures its own safety by means of Advance and Rear Guards, and Side Patrols. Be-

hind the reconnoitrer come two men, as advanced party, and then the main body of the Patrol. Two men ride singly, one behind the other, as flankers on the right and on the left. The Rear Guard is composed of the Reconnoitrers as usual, without a retired party. When the Reconnoitring Patrols are weak, the detached parties are fewer. Reconnoitring Patrols should march as secretly as circumstances permit; for this reason they should watch inhabited places, main roads, &c., but should personally avoid them.

Rules to be observed.

If the Patrol consists of a mixed force, one arm should support the other, thus infantry should be used in an enclosed, cavalry in an open country, and when the distances are great. When the reconnaissance ends at a defile, the infantry should hold it, as a support, while the cavalry pushes forward somewhat further.

If the march is through a defile, which must also be traversed on the way back, this should be occupied by at least one man, who should fire if the enemy manifests any intention of occupying it. In the same manner if on the march any point is passed which affords an extensive view the men who are placed there should fire as soon as they see that the Patrol is in any danger.

Should the Patrol, after discovering the enemy, be unable to obtain sufficient information regarding him, from the place it has reached, then it should quickly take possession of some other point, from which it can

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observe his position, or may probably be able to see the development of some larger forces.

It is often a matter of great importance to make prisoners, so as to obtain more exact information from them. Patrols sent out with this object must endeavour cunningly and cleverly to cut off or take prisoner small Patrols or detachments of the enemy. If however this cannot be done, they must get near the enemy's chain of vedettes without being seen, and endeavour to surprise one of his piquets.

When detached to examine ground.

If small Patrols are detached to examine special pieces of ground they are called Searching Patrols, and their commanders must receive exact instructions regarding the direction in which they have to retire, and regarding the rendezvous. Communication must also as far as possible be maintained with such small Patrols.

When employed against a fortress.

If Patrols are employed against a fortress, the men must scatter when they come within reach of the enemy's fire, since a body of men offers a mark for artillery. At night single soldiers must creep up to the works of the place, if necessary dismounted, and listen if there is any noise which would indicate the probability of a sortie.

Sly patrols. Their use.

Sly Patrols are small Reconnoitring Patrols, generally not more than 2 or 3 horses in each, which with great caution and concealment get as near the enemy as they can to obtain information regarding him, or regarding certain localities. The smallness of their size enables Sly Patrols to escape detection; night, bad weather, and an enclosed country also favour

them. The men who compose the Patrol should ride singly, so that in case they are surprised they may not all be captured; they observe the most perfect silence, and communicate by signs. It is often necessary to dismount a man and make him crawl up to the enemy, as thus he will be able to get nearer than is possible on horseback. The cleverest, most intelligent, and craftiest men should be selected for these patrols; grey horses and those inclined to neigh should not be used. *These Sly Patrols can often manage to hear the Parole and Countersign of the enemy* in addition to effecting the object for which they were sent out.

Rules to be observed.

Pursuing Patrols are intended to retain the feeling of the enemy, that is to say, to keep a watch on his position and movements. These patrols must receive orders as to how far they are to pursue; they must take great care that they are not surprised or cut off; they are generally most successful when they can remain concealed from the enemy.

Pursuing patrols.

Their use.

Connecting Patrols are intended to maintain the communication between portions of troops which are in action, or on the march. They keep between in the intervals and detach reconnoitrers and flankers. The latter should be in constant communication with the body of troops which is on their respective flanks. It is their business carefully to watch the position and movements of these troops, and to report the same to the officer commanding the Patrol, who in his turn should communicate the information to the detachment on his opposite flank.

Connecting patrols.

Their duties.

CHAPTER IX.

OUTPOSTS.

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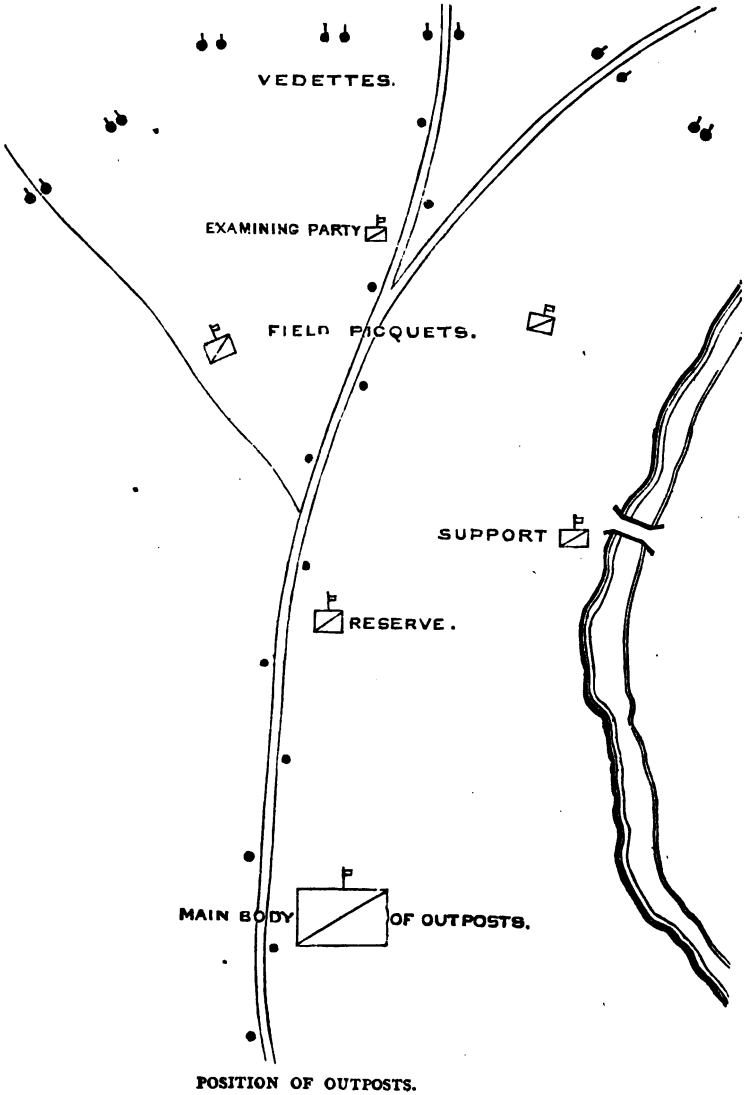
General object of outposts.

The object of Outposts.—Just as Advance and Rear Guards and Flanking Parties provide for the safety of the main body on the march, so Outposts provide for its safety and quietude in bivouacs, camps, or cantonments. They are intended to watch the enemy minutely; to report every change in his position; to repulse small detachments in case of an attack, and to hold all large ones in check, until their comrades in rear are ready to engage them.

How outposts are posted.

As soon as any detachment of troops in the neighbourhood of an enemy halts on the march, or discontinues fighting, it must immediately throw out Outposts. Those troops which are nearest the enemy (on a march the Advance and Rear Guards) place themselves as Outposts. According to circumstances they may be relieved later by other detachments.

The officer in chief command will indicate to the officer commanding the outposts the portion of ground which is to be held; and the troops detailed for this duty will at once hasten to take up their proper positions. The commanders of these troops will report



POSITION OF OUTPOSTS.

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themselves to the officer commanding the Outposts, who will then give them the preliminary instructions.

Strength of outposts.

The strength of the Outposts depends on the strength of the troops who are resting behind them, on the nearness and strength of the enemy, on the ground, on the hour of the day, and on other circumstances. As a rule, Outposts must occupy all approaches which lead from the enemy to the position occupied by the troops, whom they have to protect.

When furnished by cavalry.

In open ground cavalry will furnish the Outposts, in an enclosed country the infantry, if they are available and are not too tired. The infantry piquets, however, must have some cavalry orderlies attached to them to carry reports.

As soon as the cavalry soldier is detailed for outpost duty he should make sure that his horse is well saddled, equipped, and bridled, that his arms are in good condition, that all the various portions of his carbine or pistol are in proper working order, and that his ammunition is fit for use.

CHAPTER X.

VEDETTES.

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Use and duties of vedettes.

VEDETTES are sent out from the field-piquets to secure them from surprise, to watch the position and movements of the enemy, and to prevent any communication being held with him. They should form a chain, which is secure, but not too extended, and which interposes between the enemy and the portions of their own force. The number of the vedettes sent out must depend on the length of this chain.

The Vedettes must be extremely watchful, and must observe every circumstance which can in any way relate to the enemy; they are the eyes and ears of the field-piquets, and must be fully impressed with the importance of the position they fill.

They must neither sleep, dismount, eat, nor smoke; they are more particularly to avoid doing anything which might distract their attention, and must allow neither fatigue, wind, or weather to interfere with their watchfulness. They must never quit their post, unless when ordered to do so, until the sentries are relieved or withdrawn; or, should it so happen, if

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they are driven in by the enemy. Any carelessness or deviation from these orders will be severely punished.

Vedettes pay no compliments; on the approach of a superior officer they should remain quiet and say nothing unless spoken to, and they should answer clearly and distinctly, confining their replies to the matters on which they have been questioned.

Should any Vedette be so devoid of honour and regardless of his duties as to wish to induce a comrade to desert, the latter must exhort him to remain faithful to his oath. If, however, neither remonstrances nor even threats prove of any avail, and the man still deserts, his comrade must try and shoot him down, while the neighbouring sentries and look-out posts should report the matter.

By Day.

Duties by day.

Posting of vedettes.

The Posting of the Vedettes.—The Vedettes are posted by the commander of the field-piquet, or by a non-commissioned officer, specially detailed for that duty; they should be in open country from 1,000 to 1,200 paces in front of the field-piquet, and at the most 1,000 paces apart, but always near enough to prevent anything being able to pass between them unseen.

Position.

Their *position* must if possible be selected so that the Vedettes can see far without themselves being seen. For this reason they will be, when practicable,

Position of vedettes.

posted in concealed positions on high ground; thus, for example, in a small hollow, or near the crest of a ridge of hills, but so that their heads can see over it. Lancers at such places should droop their lances. Vedettes should more especially be placed on main roads which cut the chain of outposts. Neighbouring vedettes must be able to see each other; should it exceptionally happen that this cannot be arranged, they must the more frequently ride to positions from where they can do so.

If defiles, villages, &c., are situated on the line of outposts, Vedettes should be thrown out on the other side of them; just in the same manner they should be posted on the far side of woods and thickets, so that they may be hidden by the furthest trees. Projecting points of wood are good positions for them, as they there have a very clear view. During the day-time they should not go near farm-houses, hedges or thickets, in which infantry of the enemy could find a lodgment, but should post themselves at a distance of 600 paces.

It often happens that just in front of or within a chain of Vedettes, there are spots which, not being fully seen from the posts of the Vedettes, afford the enemy a chance of occupying them unperceived, as, for example, lanes, thickets, ditches, &c. These places should be watched, and periodically should be ridden through by Vedettes, so as to ascertain if anything suspicious is near.

If such points are not far distant from the posts of

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the Vedettes, a man may at once be placed to watch them.

The extremities of the chain of Vedettes must be drawn back in a curve, or must rest on impassable obstacles, such as rivers, morasses, lakes, &c.

Stationary patrol.

When this is not practicable, what is called a Stationary Patrol should be posted on the extreme flank. There should also be a Patrol of this description between two field-piquets that are far removed from each other. These Patrols are posted for a special purpose, and generally consist of a non-commissioned officer and a few men, whose duty it is to watch and patrol the ground before them.

Position of stationary patrols.

The tops of hills, and all points which afford an extensive view, are especially suited for such posts. The same arrangement may be made, should there happen to be in front of the line of Vedettes any suitable spot answering to this description.

As such *advanced posts* are not in uninterrupted communication with the outposts, connection must be maintained with them by means of continual patrolling. Generally this fixed patrol is attached to an officer's field-piquet.

When posts of observation are required.

If the country is so open that it can be overlooked for a great distance, then, generally some Vedettes may be spared, and a *post of observation* may be thrown out on a tower, a hill, &c., if there are any such places available.

Composition of

Vedettes should always be double, so that when one rides off to make a report, the other may remain

Vedette posts.

at his post, and watch the enemy. A front and rear rank man should occupy one post, and in order that they may command a greater extent of ground, the front rank man should face to the right and half right, the rear rank man to left and half left. Both face towards the enemy. Should there happen to be any involved and difficult ground before the post, the most intelligent of the two men should be directed to look in that direction. Carbines should be hooked, and got ready, but the pistols should not be drawn. If it rains, fire-arms should be taken under the cloak. Vedettes are numbered continuously, beginning with No. 1 from the right flank of each piquet.

Examining party.

An examining detachment (consisting of 1 non-commissioned officer and 4 men) is intended to examine all who pass in or out through the chain of Vedettes. It is posted, if possible, in a concealed position from 200 to 300 paces behind the Vedettes, who have to guard the principal road, which passes through the chain of outposts. As a rule only one examining party will be placed within reach of a field-piquet. If there should be no road which passes through the chain, the examining detachment will take up a suitable position adapted to the requirements of the ground.

The examining detachment must not light a fire, but the men who compose it will have their meals supplied by the field-piquet; no man may go far from his horse; fire-arms should be kept on the saddle.

If a superior officer approaches the examining party,

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its commander only is to mount and make a report. On being relieved the commander of an examining detachment is to report everything that passed through the line of outposts while he was on guard, as well as other circumstances.

Instructions to be given to vedettes.

Every Vedette should receive special instructions; the officer who places him should not leave the post until the Vedette knows these instructions perfectly. It is best if the soldiers are made to repeat the orders they have received.

Every Vedette must be told his number, where the neighbouring Vedettes are posted, what regiment they belong to; where the examining detachment is, what is the number of the field-piquet, what is the nearest road to it, who commands it, and who commands the outposts; where the outposts of the enemy are, and of what description of troops they are composed. He should be instructed in the roads and paths that are within the range of sight, as to whether they lead towards the enemy, are probably occupied by him, and are passable. He should likewise know the points from which the enemy may be expected to approach, the names of the places, the hills, the streams, &c., that lie in front of him, where and for what description of troops these are passable. Any ditches and morasses, wet meadows, ravines, &c., that there may happen to exist should also be pointed out.

Knowledge to be possessed by vedettes.

A knowledge of these things is absolutely indispensable to a soldier, both to guide him as regards his own duties, and to enable him to send in correct

and accurate reports; so that if on relieving a comrade, or on being regularly posted, he has not been thoroughly instructed in all these points, he should make use of every opportunity to obtain the information which he requires from patrols, country people, travellers, &c., or by personal observation in the neighbourhood.

Precautions to be observed.

On all occasions the strictest silence and quietude must be preserved on the line of outpost; this is only to be broken by the passing of the calls. No one must be allowed to halt on the chain of Vedettes, except superior officers in direct command and their staff.

In the event of Vedettes being withdrawn, if anyone of the neighbouring sentries belongs to another field-piquet, the men withdrawn must report their departure to the sentries in question. If any Vedettes receive such a communication, or remark the withdrawal of another Vedette, without their having been informed of the fact, they should immediately report the circumstance to the Field-Piquet.

Regarding passing vidette chain by day.

The following are the rules to be observed as regards passing through the chain of Vedettes by day:—

No person, without any exception, will be allowed to pass out or in, except on one of the main roads, and as a rule on only one of these, which is within reach of a field-piquet. Those who desire to pass, must previously have been examined by the non-commissioned officer of the examining detachment, and must have satisfied him as regards their character.

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If any one comes near the chain of Vedettes, either from the outside or the inside, one of the two nearest sentries should draw his carbine and ride out till he gets at about 60 yards distance from the person approaching; he should then cock his carbine and call out '*Halt.*' If the person halts, he should further add '*You cannot pass here,*' and should immediately point out the way to the Vedette who is in front of the examining detachment, where a passage may be obtained. If the person obeys this order, he must be followed by the sentry till he comes to the post of the next Vedette, and must be thus accompanied until the place indicated is reached.

Rules for conduct of vedettes.

If, however, the person challenged does not stop at the word '*Halt,*' this challenge must be repeated twice, and if he does not stop then he must be shot down. If any one directed to the next Vedette should attempt to fly he should also be shot down. If several persons approach, the same instructions apply, with this difference, that one man should be called out to the front, and the remainder ordered to halt.

Deserters.

If some of the enemy's soldiers approach, giving to be understood that they are deserters, they must be challenged when about 80 or 100 paces distant from the Vedette, by the words '*Halt,*' '*Face about.*' They will then be ordered to lay down their arms, and to advance outwards for some distance; cavalry soldiers should be ordered to dismount and tie their horses together; the deserters must then be shown the way to the Vedette in front of the examining

party. The relief, when it comes round, will take charge of the arms, but deserters should not be deprived of anything else they possess.

Examining party.

When the Vedettes in front of the examining party are approached by the people who wish to pass through the chain, they should act in just the same way as has been laid down generally as regarding the other Vedettes; they should, however, report promptly the approach of such persons. If the approach of any one is reported by the Vedettes to the examining party, its commander should personally ride out, and examine whoever is there. If there is no cause for suspicion, the person in question is to be conducted to the Field-Piquet, should such a course be in accordance with the instructions received from the officer commanding it. Should the Vedette report the approach of several people, the whole of the examining party is to mount, and ride up to the Vedette, while its commander calls these persons out and examines them one by one. If there are only two or three, they may be sent at once to the Field-Piquet; if, however, there are more, they must be conducted there singly.

Passing the chain of vedettes.

Any persons who are left in front of the chain of Vedettes must be treated as prisoners, and if they attempt to escape or are in any way refractory, they must be treated as enemies. If undoubted friends come before the chain of outposts, the commander of the examining party, after he has communicated with the Field-Piquet, may allow them to pass. If civilians appear, such as peasants, travellers, &c., either

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from the direction of the enemy, or otherwise, the Vedette must challenge them, and the commander of the examining party should examine them much as follows. After they have answered these questions, it may be necessary to ask them others.

'*Halt.*' (If more than one. '*One man to the front*'). '*Who are you?*' '*Where do you come from?*' '*Where are you going?*' '*What do you want here?*' '*Have you heard or seen anything of the enemy?*' '*Where, at what time, in what direction?*' '*Of what description of troops was his force composed?*'

If they can give any information regarding the enemy, then one of the examining party should conduct them to the Field-Piquet, and report immediately the news that they have given. If they know nothing about the enemy they must be kept until they can be conducted by the relief or a patrol to the Field-Piquet. Great caution must always be observed, more particularly if there is a great number of such people; they should however be treated civilly, but decidedly, as this is the quickest way of getting information out of them. All carts, &c., must be examined, and straw or hay should be pierced.

Flag of truce.

Anyone bringing a Flag of Truce must be made to face outwards, and wait in front of the chain of Vedettes, until further orders are received from the officer commanding the Field-Piquet. No conversation is to be allowed either with him, or the man who accompanies him, none of their questions are to be answered,

nor must they be allowed to look about, so as to see anything of our position.

If it is forbidden to receive the Flag of Truce, it must be at once sent back decidedly and without discussion. If, at the same time the Vedette is approached by two parties or by people coming from different directions, he must only deal with one at a time; the other must wait further off.

Precautions to be observed.

If one of the Vedettes on a post has ridden away to make a report, or on any other duty, or if he is ill, wounded, or dead, and in the meantime some one approaches the chain of outposts, then the other Vedette on the post in question must direct the person who approaches to one of the neighbouring sentries, as no single sentry is permitted to receive anyone. Just in the same way, if during the absence of one of the Vedettes on a post anything happens, the other must not quit his post, but must call the attention of the neighbouring, or look-out, sentries; if he cannot do this, he must fire a shot as a signal.

Reports of vedettes.

Reports of Vedettes.—Everything worthy of remark, and anything whatever that relates to the enemy, must be reported by the Vedettes to the Field-Piquet. They must make a special report if they observe troops on the march, clouds of dust, the glittering of weapons, fire, smoke, shots, noise of carts, burning beacons, &c.

All reports must be short and clear; they should begin with an announcement of the place from where they come, for example:

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Form of reports.

'*It is reported by the Field-Piquet of Lieut. N. that,' &c.*

By Vedette No. 1, or *by the Vedette on the —— road it is reported—*'

When written reports are handed in, there should be added, '*A report from the Field-Picquet of Lieut. R.*'

Reports must be complete, but not exaggerated; if they relate to troops, when possible, they should state how strong the troops are, of what arm, in what direction they have marched, whether quickly or slowly, and where they were when the man who brought the report rode off.

Who should carry such reports.

The Vedette, who himself can give the best information should be detailed to convey the report; in the meantime his comrade should continue to watch what is going on; if it is anything important, he should call the attention of the neighbouring Vedettes to it.

In important cases when reports have to be carried very rapidly, the man who carries them should not dismount, even if the superior officer, who receives them, is himself dismounted.

In case of firing.

If Vedettes hear firing they must specially note in what direction it is, and how far distant; whether it appears to be artillery or musketry-fire; they should then report their conclusions. If any fire is seen to burn in the direction of the enemy, the fact must be reported, as this may be the signal for attack.

Should a Vedette see anything in the direction of the enemy, which he cannot clearly understand, such as clouds of dust, objects moving which might

be either troops, or herds of cattle, &c., he should consult with his comrade ; if, however, neither of them make the matter clearly out, one should circle ; the quicker the object approaches the quicker should he circle ; if, at last, they can make out the object, the report must immediately follow.

A third way of announcing anything to the Field-Piquet is to fire a signal shot. It is stated further on when this course should be adopted.

On attack of the enemy.

Attack of the Enemy.—If a small patrol of the enemy composed of two or three men approaches stationary Vedettes, who are concealed and under cover, the latter must give no sign of their presence, but should fire when they can certainly do so with effect, and should endeavour to take the enemy prisoners. Should the hostile patrol have remarked the Vedettes, or be too numerous to be taken prisoners, one Vedette from each post should attack it, and endeavour to drive it back. The examining party in this case is the nearest support of the Vedettes, and its commander at once directs their movements.

If the enemy suddenly and rapidly attacks the Vedettes, or surprises them, they must fire repeatedly so as to give information to the Field-Piquet. They must then attack the enemy in flank, and endeavour to hold him in check, and if this becomes no longer possible, they must retire to one side of the Field-Piquet, so as not to lead the enemy directly on it. Just in the same way they must immediately commence firing in rapid succession *if they suddenly*

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Regarding firing.

find the enemy in their rear or on their flank. Although under such circumstances repeated firing is necessary to alarm the Field-Piquet, it must never take place except where there are no other means of furnishing a report in time. Unnecessary firing at first alarms and wearies the outposts, and if often repeated, without being necessary, at last it tends to give them a dangerous and false feeling of security.

Relief of vedettes.

Vedettes as a rule should be relieved every two hours, or oftener, if severe cold, fatigue of men or horses, bad weather, &c., make it desirable. It is advisable that they should be relieved oftener if there is any reason to fear surprises; by this means the men may be kept alert, and the reliefs may act as visiting patrols.

At every relief the Field-Piquet should mount.

Rules to be observed on relief of vedettes.

The men are dressed by the officer in command, draw swords or not, as the case may be, and receive the word, '*Nos.* 1, 2, 3, *&c., march.*' The non-commissioned officer who has to post them moves a little on one side with the men selected, places them in order, and tells them off. The officer commanding the Field-Piquet now gives the word '*March off,*' whereupon the non-commissioned officer commanding the relief gives the word '*March.*' The Field-Piquet will after every alteration fall in afresh and be told off. It will then return swords, and dismount. The Piquet-sentry warns the Field-Piquet of the return of the relief, whereupon the former will mount. The relief will remain halted either in front or at the side

of the Field-Piquet, while the commander of the relief reports himself, returns swords, and gives the word of command '*Fall in*;' the Field-Piquet will then be dressed, told off, and dismounted. The relief of the Vedettes will commence from one flank, according as the officer commanding the Field-Piquet determines. If the chain of Vedettes is long, in order to save the horses there may be two relieving detachments; or the sentries relieved first may be sent back at once to the piquet.

It is desirable to conceal the relief from the enemy; on this account, the relieving party should be as much hidden as possible as it proceeds along the chain. Twenty yards in rear of the Vedette the non-commissioned officer commanding the relief faces towards the enemy, halts, and gives the word '*Relief march.*' On being relieved, each man will ride in his old place, and will return his carbine or pistol.

Handing over orders.

When the old Vedette hands his post over, he should tell his successor all the orders of the post, and also whatever he knows regarding the enemy. To prevent anything being forgotten or omitted, a regular order should be observed; for example, first the parole and countersign should be repeated; if these have been already given out, then all that relates to that individual position, to the Field-Piquet, and to the examining party; then anything connected with the locality, and lastly what relates to the enemy. When dealing with the locality, it is best to begin at one end of the range of sight, and to mention every par-

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ticular in order, one after another, up to the other end.

Should anything be forgotten, the new Vedette must make further enquiries, and will not be permitted to bring forward as an excuse that everything has not been told him. It is of the greatest importance that there should be no omission or incompleteness in the manner in which the orders are handed over, the non-commissioned officer of the relief himself being held responsible, should take all necessary means to assure himself that this is done correctly.

The relief of the examining party should take place last, unless when it is furnished directly from the Field-Piquet.

At Night.

By night.

Position of vedettes.

As by night it is more difficult than by day to detect an enemy who endeavours to make his way through the chain unperceived, the Vedettes must be closer together, and must be drawn in nearer to the Field-Piquet. The exact distance depends on the weather, and on the degree of darkness.

At night Vedettes should generally be placed behind a defile, and near any object which they have to watch; for example, they should be placed on bridges, roads, &c., since the darkness will render it impossible to watch these satisfactorily from a distance; it is, however, necessary to withdraw behind a defile, as otherwise Vedettes are liable to be cut off. The rules

for the posting of Vedettes by day and by night have already been laid down ; in the day they ought to be on high, during the night on low ground.

Precautions to be observed by vedettes.

At night, however, the ears are to be depended on much more than the eyes ; on this account outposts should often listen for any noise which may indicate the approach of the enemy ; Vedettes should avoid doing anything which could interfere with their hearing, such as turning up the collars of their cloaks ; they should also never take up a position near mills or other objects that make a noise, or near running water, or, in windy weather, near trees.

Horses have an acute sense of hearing; for this reason the Vedette must take notice if his horse cocks his ears, or shows other signs of inquietude, since this marks the approach of men or horses. When the weather is bad horses generally turn their backs to the wind ; in order that this may not occur without being remarked by the rider, thereby causing the latter to mistake the direction in which he has to watch, every Vedette on arriving at a post should mark some fixed object by which he may always know the points of the compass and his own position.

Passwords.

The *Password*, *Parole*, and *Countersign* are used at night as a means of distinguishing between enemies and friends. The knowledge, however, of these words must not entirely exempt a stranger or unknown person from suspicion, and in such cases great caution must be observed ; the demeanour of the new comer must be carefully marked, whether he is quiet and

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natural, whether he shows any sign of disquietude, or perhaps dissimulation, or whether he speaks with a foreign accent.

Officers' password.

Parole.

The officers' *Password* is the name of a town. This is communicated to officers only. The Parole is a substantive, composed of two words, for example, 'Saddle-Strap,' 'Beer-Glass,' 'Horse-Hair.' The man challenged gives the first, the challenger the second of these two words. The countersign is the Christian-name of a man.

Countersign.

Precautions to be observed.

The soldier must regard the parole and countersign as the greatest secret, and should he communicate the same to anyone, will be treated as if he had been guilty of treachery.

In case one of the enemy should lie concealed near, the man who challenges should do so in such a low tone of voice that no one but the man challenged can hear him. Loud shouting would betray a long way off the presence of the chain of Vedettes to the enemy. Care also must be taken to communicate these passwords to those alone who have a right to ask for them.

Passing the chain of vedettes.

Passing the chain of Vedettes.—Whenever any one approaches the Vedettes at night, quite irrespective of the direction in which he comes, he must be challenged. The sentry who challenges and his comrade must act in the same manner as by day, only with greater caution. The man who rides forward should endeavour to see who is coming near him ; to do this he should bend down on his horse's neck, and look up.

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As soon as he thinks that the person approaching can hear him, he should halt, turn his horse so as to be ready for firing, cock his carbine, and challenge (but not louder than necessary), '*Halt!*' If the person approaching halts and the challenger perceives that he is a soldier, the sentry should not himself give the first word of the parole, but should challenge again, saying, '*Parole.*' If the first word is given right, the challenger replies by the second; thus both have reason to believe that they are friends. Still to render it the less possible for any one to overhear them the Vedette should call out '*Advance,*' and when the person challenged has come to about eight paces distance, '*Halt, Countersign.*' If this is given correctly, and the Vedette sees that it is the officer commanding the outposts or the Field-Piquet, he then says, '*You can pass,*' and replies to any question asked him. If it is a patrol of his own Field-Piquet he calls out, '*Pass Patrol,*' and rides up to whoever commands it, acting in the same manner as in the case of the officer commanding the Field-Piquet. If he sees that there are several people before him, as for instance a patrol, before he demands the parole he should call out, '*Advance one*;' and then should act as before laid down.

Rules to be observed.

Rules to be observed as regards persons passing through the vedette chain.

Any other persons, Patrols, or Soldiers, must be directed to where the Vedette in front of the examining party stands, just the same as by day, only with greater caution. If the non-commissioned officer in command of the examining party does not know the

Duties of the officer command-

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ing the examining party.

commander of the men whom he is thus directed to examine, he should endeavour to discover if there is any ground for suspicion by means of the following questions:—

'Who are you?' 'To what Regiment do you belong?' 'To what Brigade?' 'Division?' 'and Army Corps?' 'What are the names of the officers who command them?' 'What is their strength?' 'Where have you come from?' 'Where are you going?'

It will be seen from the answers whether there is any cause for suspicion or not. In the former case the officer commanding the party suspected should be conducted to the Field-Piquet, where further orders will be given; the other Vedettes or the examining party must in the meantime watch the remainder.

In suspicious cases.

If the person challenged cannot give the parole and countersign, and if he declares that he marched out before they were issued, then he must be examined by the non-commissioned officer commanding the examining party, as before laid down; just in the same manner if an old parole and countersign is given. In the latter case great caution is necessary, as these old passwords may have been betrayed by a deserter.

If it is a patrol, which thus knows no parole or countersign, or is otherwise suspicious, then while the examination is taking place, the men challenged must dismount and wait outside the chain of Vedettes.

If on the challenge of the Vedette the answer '*Friend*' is given, then it is evident that the person or

persons challenged are not soldiers of the same army. The non-commissioned officer, therefore, in command of the examining party must act with all the greater caution; he may allow them to approach so close that he can examine them, as has been before laid down in the case of country people, travellers, &c.; if there are several persons he must only allow one to approach. Great caution, however, must be observed in conducting the person in question to the Field-Piquet, and he must be only taken there when he can give some information regarding the enemy. During this time any people who accompany him must remain in front of the chain of Vedettes; they must not be allowed to move farther away, and must be watched by the other Vedettes and by the examining party. If they are on horseback, they must be dismounted.

Deserters at night.

Generally deserters will not be received at night, as the enemy often adopts this device of obtaining information regarding our position. If, however, the moon is shining and the weather is clear, and if the deserters are not too numerous, they may be received as during the day-time. But Vedettes must previously have ascertained, through the non-commissioned officer of the examining party, front, that the deserters have laid down their arms, and that cavalry soldiers have dismounted.

If a Vedette is challenged as he rides forward, he should reply, '*Vedette, halt*,' thereby showing his own right to challenge and demand an answer. If the

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Vedette receives no answer to his challenge, and the person who challenged him moves, the former must challenge once again, after he has allowed sufficient time to elapse so as to enable an answer to be given. If even then no answer is given, and the first challenger still continues to move, the Vedette, if convinced that his own challenge was heard, should fire.

When the vedettes should fire.

He should, however, have seen clearly beforehand that the object in front of him was not a riderless horse or an ox. Just in the same way, he should shoot at the man who challenges him, if the latter rides away, in spite of being warned, or, if on being examined, does not know the parole and countersign, or gives them wrong, without being able to afford a satisfactory explanation.

When firing to be avoided.

Although the Vedettes and the examining party must act with determination and decision, whenever they are doubtful whether they are meeting a friend or foe, still they must be careful not to fire hastily, since thereby they may give a false alarm, and may kill or wound a friend.

If a vedette deserts.

If at night one of the Vedettes attempts to desert, his comrade must try and shoot the deserter down if this cannot be done, the remaining Vedette should call out to the nearest sentry to pass the word on; and if he cannot make himself heard, he should fire. A desertion should be at once reported to all the patrols, and along the whole line of outposts; the officer also commanding the Field-Piquet must change the parole and countersign.

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Regarding challenging.

As has been before mentioned, a challenge should only be so loud that it can be heard by the person challenged at a moderate distance. Vedettes should never allow strangers to come near them, as thereby they expose themselves to be easily surprised. The man who challenges, before doing so, should ride forward from thirty to forty paces; should rein up his horse, prepare to fire, and cock his carbine or pistol. The other Vedette also gets ready, watches the challenger carefully, and is ready at any moment to hasten to the help of his comrade.

Vedette patrols.

In order that they may be all mutually watchful, and may keep up the necessary connection and communication with each other, so as to prevent the enemy making his way through the chain unseen, the Vedettes must themselves organise Vedette-Patrols. This is done in the following manner.

One man after another rides to the next Vedette-station, and is met by one of the sentries belonging to that post. They only challenge once as quietly as possible, and recognise each other afterwards by some signs on which they have mutually agreed, or by addressing each other by name; they give each other the parole without being challenged for it, and communicate anything that has occurred, or anything that they have observed.

Necessity of vedette patrols.

The duties of Vedette-Patrols are very important at night, and must be diligently carried out, more particularly about the break of day, when generally surprises are attempted. A soldier should never con-

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sider himself secure from a surprise, as watchfulness will alone make him so. For this reason one of the Vedettes should occasionally ride out some distance to listen, provided he takes care not to go astray from his post. Similarly during the day when there is a fog, or when the weather is stormy and cloudy, Vedette-Patrols should be organised.

Attack of the enemy.

Attack of the Enemy.—If a shot is fired in the chain of Vedettes, one of the examining party, and one from each of the Vedette posts must at once ride and find out the cause of the shot, and if necessary help the Vedette who has been attacked. *Under no circumstances, however, are both Vedettes to quit their post at the same time*, as in that case the enemy might pass the chain without being seen. If the man left at the Vedette post hears further tumult in the direction in which the shot was fired, and remarks that it seems to come gradually nearer, and further from the enemy, then if his comrade does not immediately return, he may conclude that the enemy is pressing forward; under these circumstances he must retire slowly, and take care that he is not cut off.

If the enemy is in superior strength.

If the enemy in superior strength attacks a Vedette-post, the neighbouring Vedettes and examining party should ride rapidly to its assistance; they then should fire repeatedly, so as to indicate where the enemy is, and retire as slowly as they can to one side of the Field-Piquet, so as to give the latter time to get in readiness for action.

Rules to be observed

At night the relief should march as noiselessly as

at night by reliefs.

possible about twenty paces in front of the chain of Vedettes, it should have a reconnoitrer in front, with his carbine or pistol drawn. The Vedettes challenge the reconnoitrer, and when the answer is given '*Relief*,' the parole and countersign must be demanded and given. Then the Vedette calls out '*March*,' rides up to the commander of the relief, reports to him, and leads him to the post. The party fronts towards the enemy, the reconnoitrer twenty paces in front of it. The Vedettes are relieved as during the day-time; in addition however to the day orders the parole and countersign must also be handed over; these words must be repeated by the new Vedette, to make sure that he has got them correctly. After this, the man who has kept up the communication with the next post acts as reconnoitrer, and conducts the relief there. If the relief meets a party, or single individual, its reconnoitrer must challenge and act like a Vedette. In order that the relieving of the sentries by night may be carried out as quietly as possible, the challenges and replies must not be louder than necessary. When the relief returns to the Field-Piquet, the sentry of the latter challenges it, the Piquet mounts, draw swords, &c., and does the same as by day when the relief joins it.

CHAPTER XI.

FIELD-PIQUETS.

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General principles of field-piquets.

FIELD-PIQUETS are those detachments or guards which are thrown out to secure the safety and repose of troops resting in their rear. They form the second line or circle of outposts, the first line being the vedettes.

The number and the strength of the Field-Piquets depend on the nature and extent of the ground they have to occupy. They must not be too far apart, otherwise it will be difficult to maintain the connection between the Vedettes; and, if the enemy breaks through the chain, they will be too far off to oppose him. Similarly, they must not be too near, as in this case they will either individually be too weak, or will have to employ more troops than the duties require.[1]

The distance of the Field-Piquets from the main body and from their supports depends on circum-

[1] Economy in the use of troops is of great importance in minor warfare, and the officer in command must use his utmost endeavours to fatigue the men under him as little as circumstances will permit. Every man, that can be spared from the outposts consistently with safety, should be allowed to rest, so that when he is really wanted he may be fresh and vigorous.

stances, so long as the great object is attained, namely, *repose for the troops in camp.*

Field-Piquets must not be thrown out too far, as then in case of a sudden attack the supports would be too late to give the proper assistance.

Piquet sentry.

The sentry of the Field-Piquet stands about fifteen paces from it; by day he should be on foot, and need not draw his sword; by night on horseback, with his carbine ready for use. His duties are much the same as those of a sentry on duty in garrison. His orders vary according to the time of day, the locality, and other circumstances. He must give notice to the officer commanding the Field-Piquet, if any one approaches from any direction, or if anything occurs among the vedettes. He is mounted whenever the Field-Piquet is mounted; if a superior officer approaches, the sentry acts like a vedette. At night he challenges, and fires if the person challenged, on the challenge being repeated, does not halt.

Look-out posts.

A Look-out Post[1] is placed between the Field-Piquet and the vedettes, and is a single sentry on horseback. He serves as an intermediate sentry, and is always required if the sentry of the Field-Piquet cannot see all the vedettes. A look-out sentry must see all the vedettes, and must himself be seen by the Field-Piquet. He must perpetually keep his eyes on the sentries, and report everything that occurs. If the vedettes circle, the look-out sentry must do the

[1] Look-out Posts are only used when circumstances render them necessary to secure the safety of the Field-Piquet.

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same; similarly he must repeat any shot that has been fired by them as a signal.

Look-out sentries are only used during the day-time, and should have their fire-arms ready for use.

Duties of the officer commanding a field-piquet.

The Officer Commanding the Field-Piquet reports himself before taking over his command to his immediate superiors, and to the officer commanding the outposts.

Instructions to be given.

He receives his instructions from the latter, and should make a note of them in his pocket-book. Everything known regarding the enemy and his intentions should be stated in these orders, as well as the time when the new Field-Piquet is to mount guard. They should also indicate the amount of stand and resistance which the Field-Piquet should make in case it is attacked in superior force. The dispositions to be adopted under such circumstances should be briefly laid down, and likewise the best line of retreat. It should be further stated in the intructions where the neighbouring Field-Piquets and where the supports are posted; to what place reports should be sent; from whence provisions, forage, and camp requisites will come; where there is water; whether a watch-fire may be lighted; and lastly, where the Field-Piquet is to be posted at night.

Before he marches off, the officer commanding a Field-Piquet should closely inspect the men and horses that have been placed under his orders; he should write down the names of the former and see that they are properly furnished with ammunition,

forage, and provisions. He should provide himself with a watch, a pencil and paper (card-paper if possible). A telescope and a map of the district are also very useful.

Responsibility of officer commanding field-piquet.

The honour of the officer commanding the Field-Piquet is held responsible that in case of any surprise, the Piquet he commands is in perfect readiness for battle. He must use his whole endeavours to give the troops resting in his rear time to get ready if he is suddenly attacked.

Precautions to be adopted.

During the day he must not go beyond the reach of his Piquet; he should however do his best, by inspection and reconnoitring, to make himself acquainted with the country round and its various roads, in order to be able to communicate this knowledge to his men in their instructions. He should also avail himself of every opportunity afforded him to obtain information regarding the enemy and the neighbourhood, both for himself and the soldiers he commands. As he posts his sentries he should carefully examine the ground round them, and should look at the paths by which at night, in case of necessity, they will have to retire. He must have every path leading to the enemy reconnoitred, so as to ascertain whether the ground round them is everywhere passable, whether the passages in it are practicable for all arms, whether there are points that are specially adapted for attack or defence; whether the obstructions, if any, can be avoided; whether the defiles, if any, may be traversed by neighbouring paths; of

Duties of the officer commanding field-piquet.

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what nature is the country in rear, and what paths lead to the supports, &c. Special care must be taken to patrol the main roads and inhabited places that exist in the neighbourhood.

If the enemy is near, the officer commanding the Field-Piquet must endeavour to ascertain the position of their outposts and of the main body, the description of troops of which the outposts are composed, their strength, and the enemy's intentions.

When the officer commanding the Field-Piquet rides out to the chain of vedettes he must hand over the command to the next senior and let him know where he has gone. When he does not accompany a patrol he should take with him a trumpeter, or at least one man to carry messages.

By Day.

How field-piquets and sentries should be posted.

The Position of the Field-Piquets.—If the posting of the Field-Piquet is entrusted to the officer who commands it, he should proceed with his men, covered by reconnoitrers and flankers, to about the centre of the ground which he has to occupy. If, while on his way thither, he comes to any important points, such as cross roads, &c., he should leave half his men halted in a concealed position under a non-commissioned officer, while he himself goes on with the remainder, covered as before by reconnoitrers. If possible he should get on some height from which he can have a view over the ground, and thus can at

once settle the line and number of the sentries. He then proceeds to place the sentries, beginning at a flank; their position may be corrected afterwards. If it appears necessary, the whole of the ground within reach of the Field-Piquets and vedettes may be examined before the sentries are posted.

Generally it is computed that two-thirds of the Field-Piquet will be required for vedettes, and one-third for patrols. If the Piquet is not strong enough to admit of this, then the reliefs must be employed as patrols, or the number of vedettes must be reduced.

How connection should be maintained.

When the vedettes have been posted, a patrol must be sent out in the direction of the enemy and of the neighbouring Field-Piquets, so as to establish communication with them; in the same way connection must be established between the vedettes. Should it appear advisable, these patrols may be sent out either before the vedettes are posted, or while this is being done. Having placed the sentries, the officer in command returns to the piquet, selects a proper station for it, and posts the piquet sentry and look-out posts.

Position of field-piquet under various conditions of ground.

The position selected for the Field-Piquet should be concealed; thus, for example, it may be a hollow or behind other objects that are themselves hid; it must, however, always afford free movement in all directions. There must not be a wood near either the front or the side of its position; just in the same way there should be no defile near its rear.

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It is necessary to have the position concealed so as to guard against a surprise of the enemy and that he may only learn the strength and position of the outposts when he attacks them. *A Field-Piquet, however, should never be posted in enclosed farm-buildings, &c.,* or be cramped in its movements by a defile.

Field-Piquets should not be separated from each other by serious obstacles or by any pieces of ground which are impassable, but must have free communication with each other. They generally are from 2,000 to 3,500 paces apart, and from 2,000 to 3,000 paces from the supports. They should also be placed in such positions that the enemy in case he attacks must come across them ; the paths, however, from the Field-Piquet to the vedettes, to the nearest supports, and to other piquets, must be easily accessible.

If there is a defile the Field-Piquet should be behind it, the vedettes in front of it, so posted that they cannot be cut off; similarly they should be behind villages that have narrow streets, the vedettes in front of them. If there is any way close round the village, the Piquet should be at one side or in front of it. Woods *thinly planted* may be occupied with advantage so long as the vedettes have a clear view from them, as such plantations shelter from the observation of the enemy, and afford protection against wind and sun.

Flanks of field piquets.

Lines of Piquets, like lines of vedettes, must have their flanks secured by impassable pieces of ground, such as morasses, lakes, rivers, &c., or must be retired

in the form of a bow and protected by means of frequent patrols.

Each Piquet is numbered, beginning with No. 1 from the right.

Various duties of officer commanding field piquet.

After fixing the position of the Field-Piquet, its commander should inspect again the posts of the vedettes. He should also endeavour to capture some man who is acquainted with the neighbourhood, whom he should question regarding any points that are strange to him. If observations have been made within reach of the enemy's position, such as cannot clearly be explained, but still seem worthy of investigation by means of a larger patrol, a special report is to be made of the fact.

Duties of field-piquet.

Duties of the Field-Piquet.—If the patrols, which have been sent out in the direction of the enemy, return with the report that at present there is no need to fear an attack, the Field-Piquet may dismount, as soon as the vedettes have been posted. If it is not quite certain that the enemy is far off, half the Piquet should remain mounted and formed up; the men dismounted must retain hold of their horses' reins.

The horses of the Field-Piquet must be kept constantly saddled and bridled, and are only to be unbridled while they are being watered and fed. Only a half or a third may be fed at the same time, and only two or three men may ride at the same time to water; these men should take all their equipments &c., with them, and should have their curb-bridles on their arms. If the drinking-place is a long way off,

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water should be brought to the Piquet in carts. Great care must be taken that the horses are not watered or fed when they are hot, and that they are well looked after.

Duties while on piquet.

Every horse must have his saddle shifted once in twelve hours; the blanket must be thoroughly shaken out and folded afresh. The saddling must be conducted carefully and without haste, one man saddling at a time, and that the operation may be performed as quickly as possible, the men should be instructed to assist each other.

While feeding, watering, and moving saddles, the men should be told off in a separate party, so that the proper formation of the Piquet may not be disturbed; they should also be directed to sleep by turns in the day-time, as circumstances allow at night they must all keep awake.

Precautions to be adopted by piquet.

The Field-Piquet must avoid making any unnecessary noise; the things that they may require for their bivouac, or otherwise, are to be brought to them by the men belonging to detachments in their rear; and when water has to be fetched, as few men as possible must be employed in fetching it.

The Field-Piquet pays no compliments, and never turns out. If a superior officer comes near them or within their reach the men remain at ease, but must be ready to mount at the slightest signal. The officer commanding them mounts and reports for example as follows: '*Field-Piquet No.* 3 *of* —— 20 *horses strong.*' He also reports anything fresh that has

occurred, and accompanies his superior as long as he remains within the reach of the picquet, and of the vedettes furnished by it. If a commissioned officer commands the Field-Piquet, as generally will be the case, he then need only report himself to the officer commanding the outposts, to a Staff Officer, or to a General.

If the Piquet is permitted to light a fire, it must be at some distance from where the horses stand, and must be hidden from the enemy. Only a portion of the men must be permitted to go near the fire, such as the vedettes who have been lately relieved, or patrols who have just returned; the other men must remain by their horses. A fire must never be lighted, and even smoking must be prohibited, if thereby the position of the Piquet would be betrayed to the enemy. When no fire may be lighted, then the men, in order to keep themselves warm, must keep continually moving.

Some directions for guidance of field-piquets.

Every Piquet must have matches and a lantern ready at hand, so as to be able, when wanted, to write and read reports; when no fire is allowed, the light of the lantern must be hidden from the enemy.

The men may be provided with warm food and beer, when it is to be procured in the neighbourhood. No one is to be permitted to quit the Piquet.

If a vedette deserts, the commander of the Field-Piquet must give out another parole and countersign, and have the fact immediately reported to the officer commanding the outposts and to the nearest piquets.

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It is also a good plan to alter the position of the piquet itself. The same course must be adopted, if the commander of the Piquet has reason to believe that the parole and countersign have been heard by the enemy.

Reports from field-piquets.

The Reports of Field-Piquets.—After the vedettes have been posted, and the first patrols have returned, the commander of the Piquet must report to the officer commanding the outposts the position of the Piquet, how many vedettes have been posted, where they stand, where the patrols were sent, and what they learnt. When possible, a sketch should accompany the report. In such reports the expression 'night' is to be avoided; the terms 'morning' and 'evening,' i.e. A.M. and P.M., are alone to be used.

If no order has been issued as to the distinct hours when reports should be sent in to the officer commanding the outposts, then in addition to the first report one should be despatched in the morning, and another after mid-day. In the afternoon report the various pass-words are asked for. The morning report is sent in after the return of the patrols, who at this time should always be despatched to obtain information regarding the position of the enemy. Additional reports will be sent in, if anything of importance occurs. Should the reports be especially important, the information they contain must be conveyed simultaneously to the commander of the support and of the main body, and also to the neighbouring piquets.

Form of reports.

Reports must be made in writing; they should state,

The number of the piquet.

The hour when the report was despatched.

If in a position to speak regarding the enemy, how strong he is, of what description are his troops, in what direction, and at what time he was seen, whether the information may be relied on or not, and how it was obtained. For example:

'Field-Piquet No. 2, August 31, 1872.
5.30 A.M.

'*The relief, which has just returned, reports that at five o'clock, on this side of Arenberg, there was seen a squadron of the enemy's Cuirassiers, which moved at a walk in the direction of Ehrenbreitstein. Vedette No. 2 has made the same report.*

'(*Signed*) ——,
'In command of Piquet.'

In drawing up reports particular care must be taken that the handwriting is legible, more particularly as regards names. It is a good plan to read the whole of the report to the man who conveys it, so that in case of necessity he may supply any deficiency, if rain, &c. should have rendered the handwriting illegible. In exceptional cases a man may be sent from the piquet with a verbal report, but in this case he should always be made to repeat the report itself, as well as the name of the person to whom it has to be conveyed.

The passing through the Vedette chain.

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Passing through the vedette chain.

No one is to be allowed to pass through the chain of outposts, except patrols and officers personally known to the vedettes; that is to say, unless the officer commanding the outposts has given a pass, which must be authenticated and distinctly proved to be genuine. In this case the commander of the Field-Piquet sends a man with the person wishing to pass, who in this way is conducted to the vedettes, and is given a free passage through the line.

If it is reported to the Piquet that armed men are coming near the chain of outposts, it should mount, and send out a detachment to examine those who are approaching, and to support the vedettes. Returning detachments must be conducted to the Piquet; if they are not known they must be again examined, and should there be no ground for suspicion may be allowed to rejoin the body of troops to which they belong. If they do not give the correct parole and countersign, they must be conducted to the officer commanding the outposts, or if they are too numerous to permit of this, their commander must be so conducted.

If natives of the country approach the vedette chain.

Natives of the country without exception will be taken to the officer commanding the outposts, after they have been questioned by the commander of the Field-Piquet regarding the enemy, and other military points. Their replies should be duly taken down and reported.

Flags of truce.

If the bearer of a flag of truce is announced the commander of the Field-Piquet rides out and inspects him; if the object of the flag is only to deliver despatches, these are to be accepted, a receipt given, and the bearer of the flag dismissed. The despatches are to be sent without delay to the officer commanding the outposts. If a bearer of a flag of truce after being dismissed continues to remain near the outposts, he is to be treated as an enemy. If there is reason to believe that he has observed our position, or the movements of our troops, he must be detained, and the fact reported.

If the bearer has verbal communications to make to an officer in high command, the officer commanding the outposts should be informed and asked for orders. If it is directed that the bearer of the flag is to be conducted into the lines, his eyes should be bandaged with his own pocket-handkerchief, and then he should be conducted to the place indicated. How he is to be treated has already been laid down.

Deserters.

Deserters, after they have been examined by the Field-Piquet, are to be conducted, if necessary in several detachments, to the commander of the outposts, and the information they give will be communicated in a report. Their weapons are to be brought in afterwards. The Field-Piquet should mount, if they are in any number.

Attack of the enemy.

Attack of the Enemy.—On the approach of the enemy to the chain of outposts, the Field-Piquet should advance, so as to support the vedettes. Ac-

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cording to circumstances, it should make short rapid attacks, as thereby it will be best able to repel the enemy. Field-Piquets should mutually support each other.

If the enemy is in such strength as to render it necessary for the Field-Piquet to retire, it should do so as slowly as possible. This retirement should be in the direction laid down in its instructions, and never straight on the Support, otherwise the latter would be hampered in its movements of attack. Thus the Field-Piquet itself, or its Support, will have the advantage of a position which is on the enemy's flank.

Should the approach of the enemy be reported, or should the vedettes circle, the commander of the Field-Piquet should ride at once forward to the chain of vedettes. *If the enemy is in strength greater than a small patrol*, it must be reported to the commander of the outposts. He must also be informed if a fire is seen in the direction of the enemy, as this may be a signal for attack.

If the enemy relinquishes the attack, a patrol must follow him to see where he halts, but should be careful to avoid an ambush. The Field-Piquet resumes its former position, which must be changed shortly afterwards.

Necessity of watchfulness.

Field-Piquets must at all times be so watchful as to render a surprise impossible; if a Piquet is surprised, or if any posts are quitted without sufficient reason, the person to blame will be punished. It may, however, possibly occur that notwithstanding

every precaution a Field-Piquet is surprised; in this case, those men who happen to be mounted must at once, without hesitation, vigorously attack the enemy, so as to give their comrades time to mount and get ready to fight.

The relief of piquets.

Relief.—It is advisable previously to tell the Field-Piquets the hour when they will be relieved; they should also know the names of the officers who will command the reliefs, and the detachments of troops of which the reliefs will consist. The new Field-Piquet generally receives the order to march out *shortly before the break of day*, and to take up its position at some little distance behind the old Piquet, so as to support it in case of an attack. If no attack takes place, the new Piquet at the break of day, having drawn swords, advances, and places itself at the side of the old Piquet, facing the enemy. The old Field-Piquet mounts on the approach of the new, and draws swords. The commander hands over his orders to his successor, tells him the rounds which the patrols will have to make, and anything he knows regarding the enemy and the ground.

How the relief of piquets is to be conducted.

The commander of the new Field-Piquet then tells off the vedettes and the first patrols, and gives the order, '*No.* 1 *march.*' Whereupon the non-commissioned officer who leads the vedettes will move with them ten paces forwards. A non-commissioned officer of the old Piquet, who is well acquainted with the position of the vedettes and the ground, will then accompany the party round. The commanders

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of both Piquets accompany the relief, so that the officer who is relieved may make his successor acquainted with everything of importance connected with the ground. The latter should note down what is necessary, more particularly the names of places.

Simultaneously a patrol composed of a mixed party of both the old and new Piquets will proceed along the chain of vedettes from 500 to 800 paces on the outside of it.

As soon as both patrol and relief have started, the Field-Piquets will return swords. It will depend on the distance of the enemy, whether they dismount or not. The relief must be conducted as noiselessly as possible.

How the vedettes are to be relieved.

The new vedettes will be posted at the points to be occupied by day, should the men relieved happen at the time of relief to be still at their night posts. These posts however must be pointed out to the commander of the new Piquet, that he may occupy them on the following night.

On the return of the relief and patrol, if nothing remarkable has been observed, both Piquets draw swords, and the old one marches off; when it has proceeded some little distance, both Piquets return swords.

Duties of piquet when relieved.

The old Field-Piquet proceeds to its bivouac (cantonment, &c.), draws swords, and marches straight in, unless it has received other orders. Its commander reports himself to the officer commanding

the outposts, and hands him the report of the new Piquet.

If from the report of the patrol, there is reason to expect some offensive movement on the part of the enemy, the old Piquet must remain some time in support of the new one; the same course must be adopted if, at the time of the relief, larger patrols than usual have been sent out from the support.

In case positions of vedettes, &c., have to be changed.

If the officer commanding the new Piquet finds that there is anything defective in the position of the Piquet itself, or of the vedettes, he may alter it, but must immediately report the circumstance to the officer commanding the outposts, at the same time explaining his reasons for doing so. Sometimes the relief of the Field-Piquet takes place in the middle of the day, after dinners have been cooked, so as to avoid the necessity of this being done by the Field-Piquet itself.

By Night.

Posting the field-piquet at night.

If the Field-Piquet is posted at night for the first time, and the neighbourhood is not known, then its position must necessarily be faulty, as there has been no opportunity of examining the ground. The Piquet in this case is thrown forward on the principal road which leads towards the enemy; it remains as quiet as possible; when practicable surrounds itself with vedettes, sends out many patrols, and endeavours to keep in connection with the neighbouring Piquets; at the break of day its position will be corrected.

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Position of field-piquet by night.

The position which the Field-Piquet occupies in the day-time must be changed at night this should be done as soon as it is sufficiently dark to conceal this movement from the enemy. Similarly, for the like reason, it should resume its former position before daybreak. This alteration for the night takes place, first for the sake of security, as the Piquets are drawn nearer together and are placed closer to their supports; secondly, because the enemy, perhaps, knowing the position of the Piquet by day, might attempt to surprise it at night; and thirdly because the requirements of ground make such a change necessary.

Field-Piquets posted to watch a defile should at night be quite close to it; but they should never be placed in a wood, as this serves to conceal the approach of the enemy, and will prevent the Piquet deploying.

Precautions to be taken at night.

At night, or whenever by day there is thick mist or snow, the chain of vedettes should be reinforced, and patrols should be sent out more frequently; in such cases the officer commanding the outposts should reinforce the Piquets in proportion, or should send out new ones. If the country is enclosed, cavalry piquets should at night be entirely withdrawn, or should be replaced by infantry. At night the officer in command of a Piquet must remain constantly with it.

Duties of field-piquets.

Duties of Field-Piquets.—At night, only a third of the men in a Piquet must be allowed to sleep; the sleepers should be kept separate from men who

are awake, in order that in case of an alarm there may be no confusion from one party being mixed with the other. Those awake must have hold of their horses' reins, and be in their proper order; towards morning all must be awake and have their horses bridled.

In case the enemy is near.

If the enemy is near, and a surprise possible, half the Field-Piquet must be constantly mounted, and advanced a little to one side; the other half must keep awake, and hold their horses' bridles dismounted; if a shot is fired by the vedettes they must mount; these detachments will change places every hour. Helmets, &c., ammunition pouches, and side arms, should not be taken off at night; the carbine should be kept constantly hooked to the swivel.

If the night is dark, and it appears advisable, several sentries must be posted round the Field-Piquet, so that nothing may approach it unperceived. The commander of a Piquet must do his best to keep on the alert those of his men who have to remain awake; the best way to do this is to tell them some story which interests them; he must likewise take especial care that they do not drink too much.

At night precautions even greater than by day must be taken as regards passing the chain of outposts, and therefore the commander of the Piquet should at once ride forward to the vedettes as soon as it has been reported to him that any question has arisen regarding the propriety of allowing some one to pass.

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Attack of the enemy.

Attack of the Enemy.—If a shot is fired by the vedettes, the Piquet should mount, and send out a patrol to learn the particulars.

How obstacles may be used.

At night Cavalry Piquets cannot always attack, but more frequently they may make use of the capabilities of the spot they occupy to form an ambush, from which they can suddenly fall on any advancing enemy, perhaps simultaneously in flank and rear. Should the firing among the vedettes be repeated, and should it be practicable to send out a portion of the Piquet, endeavours must be made to find out the strength of the enemy, so that the main body may not unnecessarily be caused to move by exaggerated reports. The enemy is only too glad to effect such alarms, so that the troops may be at the time harassed, and that an attack afterwards may be all the more effective. Exact reports of the strength of the attacking force, &c., should be sent as soon as possible to the officer commanding the outposts.

Frequently the ground occupied by the Piquet affords facilities for preventing a nocturnal surprise by means of barricades, &c. In this case care must be taken that the cavalry has the means of deploying, and has a secure retreat. Attacks are generally made shortly before daybreak, as then vedettes are supposed to be most fatigued. At this time, therefore, great watchfulness and much patrolling is required.

CHAPTER XII.

OF PATROLS FROM THE FIELD-PIQUETS.

THE security of Field-Piquets is secured by means of Patrols as well as vedettes.

The time of the day at which Patrols go their rounds, as well as the roads that they follow, must be continually changed; their strength also should vary, as otherwise the enemy will be enabled to ascertain their movements, and to cut them off. As a rule it will be so arranged that one Patrol starts when the other returns; they must not be sent too far out; rather than this it is better to send them out more frequently. They should ride as noiselessly as possible, and perform their duties in the same manner; this more especially refers to those Patrols that are sent out at night by Field-Piquets, to ground occupied by the enemy.

The principles that have been already laid down regarding Patrols are equally applicable here. The Patrols sent out by Field-Picquets are of two kinds, namely :—

Visiting Patrols,
Reconnoitring Patrols.

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Visiting patrols.

Visiting Patrols are sent out to test the watchfulness of the vedettes; they are used more especially at night and during bad weather, and go as far as the vedettes of the neighbouring picquet, searching the ground directly in front and behind the chain of vedettes. These Patrols consist of only a few men, and sometimes the officer commanding the Field-Piquet will himself accompany them. If the Piquet is scarce of men, the reliefs must be used as Visiting Patrols.

Reconnoitring patrols.

Reconnoitring Patrols are used to reconnoitre the enemy, and the ground before the outposts. They should push forward far enough to see the enemy's chain of sentries, or to ascertain that there is no enemy within reach; they should also discover whether there is any spot which might be used for an ambush. These Patrols must be constantly employed, if the vedettes have not an extensive view over the country round, and are generally sent out at daybreak, and at intervals during the day.

The strength of Reconnoitring Patrols will depend on the object they have in view. The smallest are Secret, or 'Sly' Patrols, which go up to, and through the enemy's vedettes to obtain information regarding his position, or to hear his parole and countersign.

When the features of the ground are involved, a locality should be patrolled at night by the same men who previously patrolled it by day, as from their knowledge of the ground they will be less likely to

miss their way. Visiting and Reconnoitring Patrols will likewise be used to keep up the connection and communication between Field-Piquets and their supports, and also between neighbouring Field-Piquets.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE SUPPORTS AND MAIN BODY OF THE OUTPOSTS.

CHAP. XIII.

Supports.

THE Supports form the third line which surrounds and protects the troops in repose. (The Vedettes being the first line, the Field-Piquets the second.) The Supports are only made use of when wanted, and are detachments held in immediate readiness for action; they generally are placed at the disposition of the officer commanding the outposts, or of some one higher in command. They are more especially used when night, unfavourable weather, or any operations, either on the part of ourselves, or the enemy render a reinforcement of the outposts desirable; or, again, should the conditions of the ground, or the distance of the Field-Piquets from the main body of the outposts, make it necessary that they should be employed.

When cavalry is to be employed.

Cavalry, as a rule, will be only used as Supports in such cases when it would be similarly employed on the field of battle, or when the ground is very open. Supports should have their firearms loaded, and must themselves provide for their own security.

Nature of supports.

A Support is a detachment which by day remains in its cantonments, camp, or bivouac, as the case may be, and only moves out to its position at night, or at such times when it is especially required. The position of the Support must be selected according to the object it is intended to fulfil; it must be easy of access, and when possible must be behind the centre of that portion of the outpost line which the detachment in question is intended to reinforce.

These Supports are of two kinds, and may be termed respectively the *Direct Support* and the *Reserve Support.*

Direct support.

The *Direct Support* should be placed at a suitable spot behind the line of Field-Picquets, and ought to be situated so that it is within reach of several of them, and, if required, can move quickly and without hindrance to each of the points where they are posted. This Support must be in continual readiness for battle, and must maintain its connection with the Field-Picquets which it is detailed to reinforce; it should post a sentry and make use of patrols.

Reserve support.

A *Reserve Support* is intended to cover the retreat of Field-Piquets who are forced to retire; it should be posted in a position where it is concealed and can surprise an enemy pursuing the Picquet by an attack in flank and rear. When possible, also, the approach to its position should be so selected that the retreating detachment will find shelter as soon as the Reserve Support comes into action.

Defiles which cannot be turned are particularly

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How it should be posted.

well adapted for such Supports, who thus posted can protect their retreating comrades, and also themselves attack the enemy advantageously.

Reserve Supports must be so far ready for action that they will not be surprised by the appearance of the enemy. They must secure their safety by patrols, and by single sentries if required. Cavalry Field-Piquets will be often withdrawn at night behind the position of the Reserve Support, which then is composed solely of infantry.

Main body of outposts.

The Main Body of the Outposts may be termed the centre of their resisting power, and also the reserve, from which the various detachments derive their reinforcements. It is under the direct command of the officer commanding the outposts, and must be close to the spot where a more determined stand will probably have to be made, while at the same time it must be prepared to develop and deploy its force in any direction that may be required. It must bivouac and provide for its individual security by means of guards. In such a bivouac no music must be played, or calls sounded, unless in case of an alarm.

The officer commanding the outposts will give directions as to how far the Main Body is to hold itself in readiness for action. In any case, however, cavalry should not unsaddle during the day; only one detachment at a time will cook their food, feed, and water their horses, or will remove their saddles. Should an alarm be sounded the Main Body of the outposts will get in immediate readiness for action, and will prepare to oppose the enemy or itself commence the attack.

CHAPTER XIV.

SURPRISES.

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Surprises.

Conditions to ensure success.

To ensure the success of a Surprise an accurate acquaintance with the enemy's position is indispensable. His weak points should be ascertained, and the plan of the Surprise formed with reference to them. It should then be carried out with rapidity and determination. The locality where the Surprise will be attempted should also be known, and more especially the roads, the passages through defiles, and the best lines of retreat.

Every Surprise should be undertaken in sufficient force to render its success probable; but the matter of the greatest importance is that it should be sudden and secret; all possible means should be taken to secure this condition of secrecy, as otherwise the result may be disastrous.

Favourable conditions.

Darkness, mist, rain, snow-storms, an enclosed country, the previous exhaustion of the enemy, and imperfect precautions adopted by him to provide for his safety, tend to facilitate and conceal the approach of the detachments who attempt the Surprise. Hence the confusion caused by the attack is in-

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creased, and the success of the enterprise itself rendered more probable. If it is possible to take the enemy in rear the Surprise will be more perfect, and the measures taken to oppose it less likely to succeed. Cavalry is especially adapted for Surprises, as it can, from the rapidity of its movements, get close to the enemy suddenly and unexpectedly.

How Surprises should be carried out.

How surprises should be carried out.

The party detailed for this duty should advance as much under cover and as noiselessly as possible; it should be divided into several detachments, which at all times should be so organised that every party which attacks should have a reserve to support and succour it: when possible there should be also a reserve for the entire body, posted at some suitable spot.

Time best suited for surprises.

It is a good plan in attempting a Surprise to attack on two sides, in which case a signal should be previously agreed on, so that the attack of the two parties may be simultaneous. The night is the time best adapted for Surprises, since then the strength of the troops employed cannot be seen, and the attack appears more sudden than it really is. Of course under such circumstances the ground must be well known and some distinguishing signs or marks, such as a cry, or a white band on the arm, &c., are necessary. The party making the attack should at night have a reconnoitrer in front, but on approaching

near the enemy he should be withdrawn and the entire body should endeavour to attack so suddenly that they themselves give their enemy the first intimation of their approach.

Firing undesirable.

Although much firing increases the confusion, still it is better to carry out the enterprise as quietly as possible, since it is evident that firing may bring assistance to the party surprised.

The Surprise should be quickly brought to an end; as soon as the object has been attained, the recall should be several times blown, a rear guard thrown out, and the retreat commenced.

Object of surprises.

As the object of a Surprise is with a force proportionately small to do the enemy the greatest possible damage, every man of the party should have his own special duty allotted to him, for example to spike cannon, to carry off some superior officer, to free prisoners, to seize a military chest, &c. If anything has been captured, it should be sent off under the charge of a detachment, with another to follow as a covering party. In every Surprise it is always an important matter to carry off arms or render them unserviceable; to damage the equipment, harness, of cavalry and artillery; to render officers, trumpeters, ineffective.

Should the attacking party meet a patrol of the enemy they should try and avoid it, or capture it without causing any noise. Single vedettes and sentries should if possible be surprised before they can fire; in the case of larger detachments, such as Field-

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Picquets, &c., care must be taken that not one of them escapes. All the men should be told the line of retreat and the place of assembly, in case of the enterprise being unsuccessful.

Surprise of an inhabited place.

Surprise of an inhabited place.—If the place is occupied by infantry, it will be difficult to surprise it with cavalry; still even then, in the dark, great successes have been achieved by boldness.

The party undertaking the Surprise will be portioned out into several divisions, each of which has a distinct task committed to it. The first will execute the Surprise itself, and for this reason will be further divided out into small detachments. One of these detachments surprises the guard, another has to capture the officer in command, and a third takes care that the enemy do not collect in the streets. A second division dashes through the place, occupies the roads leading out of it, so as to stop any of the enemy who wish to escape: it also sends patrols on the far side in order to discover, and hold in check any force of the enemy that might approach. A third division, the reserve, remains at the entrance into the place, gives assistance when required, and takes charge of prisoners, &c. The officer in command should be at the most important point, where the special object for which the enterprise was undertaken has to be attained.

The men must be warned not to separate, and only to venture into houses when they are sufficiently numerous to do so with safety. The entire plan of

the attack should be communicated to all the attacking party.

Surprise of an enemy on the march or of a convoy.

The surprise of an enemy on the march, or of a convoy.—From the quickness with which cavalry can approach an enemy on the march, it is peculiarly adapted for such Surprises, even if there is no opportunity of preparing an ambush. The detachment thus employed must endeavour as long as possible to conceal its approach. When this can no longer be done, it should at once commence the attack with the greatest ardour, in the manner which had been previously decided upon.

The general rules already laid down are here equally applicable, and a judicious choice of ground for the moment of the Surprise will be found of great importance. The attack should be so arranged that it falls with full strength on the weakest points. It is advantageous so to organise a Surprise that it may fall on several points simultaneously; as for example, on the head or the rear, and the flank of a column.

Details of attack.

Attempts should be made to separate troops on the march, and to prevent their deploying.

In attacking a convoy one party attacks the escort, the other cuts down the drivers and prevents them unharnessing and driving off with the horses. The most valuable waggons should be rapidly carried off, and the number of horses harnessed to them increased. What cannot be carried off should be destroyed.

One portion of the attacking party, the reserve,

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should remain formed up, so as to be able to oppose any supports of the enemy that should happen to come up, and also to render assistance if required.

If the convoy is massed, the waggons forming a species of intrenchment protected by infantry, cavalry should not attack, but wait till the column resumes its march.

Should the party undertaking the Surprise be weaker than the escort, then if possible an ambuscade should be made, and the attack commenced just about the time when the convoy is passing through a defile, and when one portion has already got through it. Then only that part of the escort which is at the head or the rear of the convoy has to be dealt with. The defile can be easily blocked up by means of a waggon; thus the part of the convoy on this side of the defile may be cut off and rendered an easy prey.

There are many instances in history of only small detachments achieving great successes in such enterprises. There must be an enterprising leader, bold resolution, intelligent soldiers, and good horses. *What is well begun is already done.*

CHAPTER XV.

AMBUSCADES.

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Ambuscades.

AMBUSCADES are of two kinds. The first is a military position, which is so concealed by ground, that it can only with difficulty be discovered, and therefore facilitates the surprise of troops who are marching near it. The second is also a concealed position, but one which is only intended to check a victorious enemy in his pursuit. An Ambuscade is also a surprise, but the former word is only used when the surprise is effected on a convoy, or on troops actually marching.

Conditions to secure success.

In order to organise an Ambuscade successfully, the officer who commands it must have a perfect acquaintance with the country, more especially with that spot where the Ambuscade will be laid. The place must be so selected that the force to be surprised must pass close to it, and that the detachment in ambush may be well concealed, may without difficulty deploy into action, and can easily retreat.

Great consideration is required in the choice of the ground for an ambush, since it is not every thicket or hollow that is suitable.

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Positions suitable.

A spot near a defile through which the enemy must pass is usually well adapted for an Ambuscade, as there he will be taken at a disadvantage. It is better that the position chosen should not be so remarkable as to attract the attention and excite the suspicions of the foe.

Precautions to be adopted.

Darkness, mist, or bad weather, favour such enterprises. Secrecy, however, is indispensable not only with respect to the Ambuscade itself, but also as regards the march to occupy the position, where the Ambuscade will be attempted; and here all the rules hold good which have been already laid down respecting the manner of conducting secret marches. Inhabited places and main roads must be avoided, natives of the country who see the march or the Ambuscade must be detained. There should be no traces of the march, or at least they should be cleverly effaced. If the place is far off the party should march at night and remain quiet during the day in some concealed position; they should not use horses that neigh, and should carry their provisions with them.

The detachment provides for its own security in its position by means of one or more sentries, who should be concealed, but yet be able to detect from a considerable distance the approach of the enemy; at night they must trust to their ears.

In the Ambuscade itself the greatest stillness and quietude must be observed up to the moment of the surprise, when on a given signal all must attack the enemy with spirit and determination. If the enterprise

is successful the party withdraws rapidly; in case of failure, a rendezvous must be previously settled. If the enemy is in too great strength, or if the Ambuscade has been discovered, there should be an immediate retreat.

CHAPTER XVI.

ESCORTS.

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Various kinds of escorts.

ESCORTS are of various kinds; there are Escorts for individuals, or guards of honour, Escorts for couriers, prisoners, wounded men, for horses and cattle, and also for provisions and munitions of war of all kinds. The commander of an Escort must endeavour to obtain exact information regarding the road and the enemy, and should employ trustworthy persons to procure news for him.

Escorts of honour.

Escorts of honour and courier Escorts will always be provided by cavalry, and must conform to the speed and wishes of whomsoever they escort. On service the safety of the persons escorted will be the first consideration, to which all others must be subservient.

Escorts of prisoners.

Escorts for Prisoners.—Before starting, prisoners should be threatened with the most severe measures if on the road they show any signs of insubordination. The measures threatened and carried into effect must be all the more severe if the Escort is weak. The men on Escort must load their fire-arms in the presence of the prisoners. The prisoners must be ranged in military order, and must be told off into larger and

smaller detachments, each one of these has a distinct commander; prisoners will march by files or in threes; no one to be allowed to leave the ranks, and any one who does so, attempts to escape, or shows signs of insubordination, must be knocked down or shot.

Precautions to be adopted.

The Escort must have an advance and rear guard, and flanking parties. The main portion of the Escort marches in the centre of the entire convoy, single cavalry soldiers ride on each side, so that the prisoners may constantly be under the strictest supervision.

Treatment of prisoners.

As long as prisoners remain quiet they are to be well treated, but they must not be allowed to speak to one another. Their wants will be provided for according to the resources at hand; wounded must be treated with consideration, but also with caution. Should there be any signs of insubordination or of a conspiracy, the ringleaders must be separated from the other prisoners and placed under the strictest supervision. Decision and determination in such cases are especially requisite.

How a march should be conducted.

An open space should always be selected for a halt on the line of march, and it should never be near buildings, wood, or long corn. A convoy of prisoners should halt for the night only in small places where the prisoners can be securely confined in large buildings, such as can be easily watched, and can be lighted by lanterns in the inside. Sentries should be placed within the buildings, and must be very watchful; only one door should be kept open, and there

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a guard should be placed. The remainder of the Escort will, according to circumstances, be lodged in the neighbourhood in alarm posts.

In case the enemy attacks.

If the convoy is attacked by the enemy the prisoners should be marched off in detachments and should be made to lie down. One part of the Escort detailed for the purpose is posted round them and threatens to shoot any who stand up, the remainder of the Escort oppose the enemy.

Escort of provisions, &c.

Escort of provisions, munitions of war, wounded men, cattle, &c.—The rules already laid down are here equally applicable; one portion of the Escort, about the half, must be employed to provide for the safety of the convoy. With the advance guard there should be men who understand how to repair roads, bridges, &c. Another portion of the Escort remains with the convoy and marches in that part of the column where the attack of the enemy may be expected to take place. If the enemy may be expected from all sides, and if the country is open, then it is best that the Escort should march in the middle. If the country is enclosed, then this portion of the Escort ought to be separated and should march one portion in front and the other in rear. Large convoys will be divided into detachments, each under its own commander.

Necessity of having a convoy as short as possible.

It is important that the convoy should be as short as possible, and therefore when the roads permit carriages or waggons should be placed two abreast. A waggon with two horses occupies a distance of about 11 paces, one with four horses 16 paces, and

one with six horses 20 paces. The waggons must be locked up close to one another at a few paces distance; they should preserve the same order, and should all be numbered.

In case there are horses.

Should there be remounts, or pack-horses, they should march behind the waggons, so as not to tread out the wheel tracks. If the roads are hard, there is no reason to fear this, and the horses should march in front.

Should there be no route previously laid down in orders, when the enemy is near, the best and most concealed road should be selected; and, if possible, one that is separated from the enemy by some obstruction, such as a river, deep ditch, chasm, &c. Single cavalry soldiers should ride at the side along the whole length of the column, to superintend the arrangements, and more especially to look after the waggoners. Every cavalry soldier will have to superintend a certain number of waggons.

Precautions to be observed.

The waggons that have the most valuable contents will be placed in that part of the convoy where there is the least prospect of danger; if this chance is equal on every side, they should be placed in the middle. Care must be taken not to overload a waggon or carriage; if one is injured, it must be taken on one side, and immediately repaired; if this is not practicable, its load must be placed in empty reserve waggons, or divided among others. For purposes of feeding the horses, the waggons should be divided into detachments.

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In case of halting at night.

If it is necessary to halt for the night, the halt should take place behind some piece of ground which will conceal the convoy, or afford means for protecting it. The escort acts like a Field-Piquet, throwing out vedettes, &c. The waggons should be formed into a species of intrenchment or barricade. With this object they should be placed close to each other, in two rows about twenty to thirty paces apart, the horses, and poles of waggons, being on the inside. The open space at each end should also be closed up by waggons.

If the enemy appears.

If the enemy shows himself during the march, and is only in such strength that the Escort may hope to repulse him, the whole of the (cavalry) Escort should attack and attempt at least to ward him off from the convoy. The latter, according to circumstances, should either be driven away quickly, or should be formed up as a barricaded park. If the Escort is worsted, the men can throw themselves into this park, and have recourse to their fire-arms. Any infantry that may form part of the Escort should remain with the waggons and defend the barricade.

If the enemy approaches in superior force, and help cannot be reckoned upon, the waggons when possible should go off to one side, and take another direction. If this cannot be carried into effect a barricaded park must be formed, and defended according to the means available. If it is evident that this would be useless, and that the convoy cannot be saved, then some of the

waggons should be sacrificed. Perhaps the enemy may halt to plunder them, and the others in the meantime may escape. Should this also fail, as much of the convoy must be destroyed as is found necessary, and endeavours made to save the horses.

CHAPTER XVII.

FORAGING AND REQUISITIONING.

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Foraging when necessary.

ON service troops will, as a rule, be supplied with provisions, forage, &c., from magazines, or by means of requisitions which are duly served on the inhabitants of the country. Should, however, these means of subsistence not be available in an enemy's country, then recourse must be had to foraging.

Foraging is the term used to express the providing of forage for horses, and provisions for men. It is called *Dry Foraging*, or *Requisitioning*, when the various materials have previously been collected by the inhabitants, *Green Foraging* when the troops have themselves to collect and gather the materials in the fields.

Dry foraging and requisitioning.

Dry Foraging and Requisitioning.—The commander of a party receives directions regarding the place where the foraging is to take place, and respecting the quantity of provisions, forage, &c., which has to be procured. The party must be divided into two detachments, one of which is the foraging party, and the other acts as a guard.

The latter must do exactly the same as when it occupies any place or piece of ground in the presence of the enemy, and must be so disposed that the men, who are detailed to forage, may perform their work undisturbed. Field-Piquets, with vedettes, patrols, and in a flat country single sentries on church towers, hills, &c., will answer this purpose. The patrols sent out should not go too far, otherwise they might attract the enemy's attention. If the foraging takes place within the outposts, the security of the foraging party will be sufficiently secured without further precautions.

Rules to be observed while foraging.

The detachment detailed as a guard must take care that no person, under any pretext whatever, leaves the place while the foraging is going on; as it is important that this should be finished during the daytime, the party who have to carry it out should start at such an hour as will enable them to begin their work by daybreak. The officer in command hands over the written order to the chief magistrate in the place, and gives directions sternly and decidedly as to where and at what time the various articles together with the requisite transport are to be brought. He should threaten at the same time that, unless the foraging is quickly commenced, and the requisition is exactly and fully complied with, the soldiers will be sent into houses and barns, and will themselves seek and carry off what is required. This latter alternative, however, must only be adopted in case of necessity, and care must be taken that nothing is un-

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necessarily wasted, and nothing whatever taken except what is required for forage and provisions.

Hostages to be seized.

It is also a judicious plan to secure and keep one of the principal inhabitants as a hostage, so as to insure the foraging being carried out properly; care must be taken, however, not to select the chief magistrate, or any one else who is required personally to assist in the execution of the orders given.

A place of assembly to be fixed.

A portion of the detachment specially told off for the duty of foraging, must, together with a trumpeter, remain under the officer in chief command, in an open space, and will have to receive and superintend the loading of the various articles, &c. When the recall is sounded, all must collect in the place of assembly, whether the foraging has been finished or not. As soon as what is required has been duly handed over to the officer in command, he will give a receipt for the same.

Rules in the event of a scarcity of horses.

If there are no more horses in the place available for purposes of transport, then the cavalry horses must be harnessed to any waggons and carriages that can be procured; grease for the wheels must not be forgotten. Should there be also no waggons or carts, then the provisions must be carried in sacks, baskets, &c., by the inhabitants, while the forage can be divided among the cavalry horses. It is calculated that, in addition to his kit, a man may put a weight of 200 English pounds on a horse's back; the rider must then of course walk. If waggons are used, from 400 to 600 pounds may be reckoned for each horse. Sheaves

will be tied up tightly into bundles of forage about 50 lbs. weight, and four of these, bound together by forage ropes, may be placed on a horse.

If the place is deserted.

Should the place have been deserted by the inhabitants, then a portion of the men must be told off to search in the larger buildings for what is required. Every excess must in this case be strictly forbidden, and what is found must be brought at once to the place of assembly.

If the enemy approaches.

If the enemy approaches, he must be held in check long enough to enable the waggons or horses that have been loaded to draw off; the detachment detailed to secure the safety of the foraging party will take up the duties of rear-guard.

Green foraging.

How conducted.

Green Foraging.—The party ordered to perform this duty assembles at the place selected; scythes, reaping-hooks, ropes, &c. must have been previously provided. One man will be told off to every 6 or 10 horses, to hold them; two binders to each mower, and one binder to each reaper. The mowers will be placed at one end, the reapers at the other end, of any field which has to be cut. Sheaves will be bound of a size so as to average about 10 lbs. in weight; from 5 to 6 will be put into a forage bundle. As soon as the forage bundles have been made the horses will be loaded, and care must be taken that this is done securely and correctly. As a rule this kind of foraging should not be undertaken too early in the morning, as at that hour the corn is usually wet.

Covering party.

The covering party should post itself in a suitable

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position, so as, if possible, to ensure the foraging being safely concluded. The foragers should remain armed if the enemy is in the neighbourhood, and if attacked should not abandon their work unless forced to do so.

As regards other matters, the rules already laid down for dry foraging are equally applicable in the case of green foraging.

CHAPTER XVIII.

SKIRMISHING.

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Object of skirmishing.

SKIRMISHERS are especially intended to watch the enemy, to keep back any of his individual soldiers who attempt to press forward, and to conceal the movements of our own troops.

How it is to be conducted.

As a rule, the fourth division[1] of a squadron will skirmish, unless otherwise ordered.

On the signal 'Skirmishers to the front,' the division leader, if the squadron is in line, will give the command: '*Fourth Division*,' '*Trot*,' '*Half Right*,' '*March*;' and when it reaches the centre of the squadron; '*Forward*.'

When the division has advanced to about 150 to 200 paces in front of the squadron, he will give the word '*Halt*;' on which, unless otherwise ordered, the four files on the left flank will quickly return swords (sling lances), and on receiving the word from the troop leader, '*Skirmishers to the front*,' will gallop out 100 paces to the front; while doing so they will draw their carbines or pistols, and will extend so as to outflank the squadron on both sides. Each rear rank

[1] 'Zug,' the fourth part of a squadron of about 130 horses.—*Trans.*

man will be on the left of his front rank man, in line with him. The skirmishers will at once commence firing. A trumpeter will accompany the skirmishing division on its right flank. The squadron sergeant-major will place himself behind the third division.

The non-commissioned officer on the left flank of the squadron will go out with the Skirmishers, and will take command of them; he must keep about twenty paces in rear of their centre, and when they are recalled should lead them. He can, however, place himself wherever he is most wanted.

When the squadron is advancing in line, the Skirmishers should be sent out in the same manner as when it is halted, only with greater rapidity. If the squadron is in column of divisions left in front, then the skirmishing (fourth) division will advance straight to its front; if in column of divisions, right in front, it will from the halt go left wheel; if on the move go half left, so as to get clear of the column; it will then trot or gallop forward to the proper distance.

If the column is retiring left in front, the skirmishing division will go left about wheel; if retiring right in front, it will go right about wheel. In both cases it will trot out to the prescribed distance.

Should the fourth division have fallen out at the time when the squadron leader gives the word '*Skirmishers to the front*,' the files on the flank, without further order, will go out to the prescribed distance, and will

return their swords and draw their carbines or pistols, as the case may be. The remainder will close in together in front of the squadron, and will form the support.

If another division is detailed for skirmishing, it will act in the same way as has been already laid down. If one of the centre divisions of a squadron skirmishes, the squadron leader must close the squadron. When the recall is sounded, divisions 1 and 2 will go right about, 3 and 4 left about. In all cases Skirmishers will go left about.

If required, the firing line may be reinforced by the entire division being sent out to skirmish, in which case another division supports.

Relieving skirmishers.

The division leader will have to relieve Skirmishers from time to time, as this is done independently. The relief, composed of four files from the left flank, will trot out in the same manner as the men they relieve. Each one of the relief rides straight to the man whom he relieves, and takes his place. The men relieved will trot back to their division, and resume their former positions, returning their carbines and pistols, and drawing swords, as the case may be.

Recalling skirmishers.

The squadron leader, when he wishes to recall Skirmishers, will cause the recall to be sounded on the flank. The Skirmishers will go left about, return their carbines or pistols, and draw swords. They will then trot back to their troop, which without further orders will go left about, and by the shortest line

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resume its place in the squadron. If the squadron moves before the troop reaches it, the latter must move all the faster.

The duties of skirmishers.

In each file one man supports the other; one of the two must always have his carbine or pistol loaded, so as to protect his comrade in case of danger, and not to miss a favourable opportunity for a shot, should such occur. If assistance is wanted, the division in support should afford it.

Skirmishers must take aim and fire slowly; on this account they should halt when they cock their weapons and when they deliver their shot; if they carry carbines, and circumstances permit, they may dismount.

Skirmishers should keep moving, so as to afford an uncertain mark for the enemy; they should load on horseback, and keep circling, so as to form the figure of eight. When they advance and retire, they should move in 'serpentine.' Men armed with carbines should move from the centre towards the right rear of the figure ∞, those armed with pistols towards the left rear. All turns should be made with the face to the enemy.

Skirmishers, and more especially the non-commissioned officer leading them, must, without unnecessarily straining their horses, move and be ready to move with the greatest rapidity in all directions; they must take advantage of any weak points of the enemy, and must never forget that they are intended to cover the troops behind them, to whose movements

and signals they should pay the greatest attention. The skirmishing division must conform to the movements of the squadron, that is to say when the division leader has ascertained the direction in which the squadron is moving.

Skirmishers must endeavour to induce their adversaries to fire, and then must ride close to them and shoot them down. They should aim low, so as to hit the horse if they miss the rider.

When retiring.

When they retreat the Skirmishers must keep cool, and not be alarmed lest they should be cut off. They should avail themselves of every opportunity to annoy the enemy, and to do this undulations of ground and buildings are often of great use. When they retire, they should continue to watch the enemy by keeping their heads turned towards him, while they move in 'serpentine;' they should also frequently turn round. If their own artillery comes into action, Skirmishers must quickly clear the front; just in the same way if the squadron behind them attacks.

The division leader sounds '*Stop*' when the Skirmishers get out of reach of the enemy's fire, on which they cease firing, and remain halted, facing the enemy. The signal '*Fire*' will be given as soon as the enemy comes within shot of the Skirmishers, who will then begin to move, and act according to orders.

If the men have ridden some way after loading their pistols, the pistols should be looked to before firing. Skirmishers should always have their carbines cocked. When '*Stop*' is sounded, the carbines should

be uncocked; in the same way on the '*Recall*,' before the carbine is hung. If the Skirmishers have to advance through a defile, the two men nearest should go through it first, followed by the non-commissioned officer, and the remainder of the Skirmishers. If they have to retire through a defile, the men on both wings should successively draw in towards it, those in the centre following last. When the squadron retires, Skirmishers should face the enemy.

Cavalry should never skirmish against infantry Skirmishers, since they afford a larger object to fire at, and the latter can cover themselves more easily. Similarly, they should keep out of shot of infantry, and then if opportunity offers, fall on them with their swords, lances, &c. A line of infantry Skirmishers is best attacked, and doubled up from the flank.

The division that skirmishes will sometimes have an opportunity of attacking artillery. In such cases Skirmishers must follow up and aid the movement, which must be conducted with the greatest rapidity; this attack also should be directed against a flank. The gunners should be cut down; and should there be no chance of carrying off the guns, the traces must be cut, and the horses rendered useless.

CHAPTER XIX.

FIGHTING ON FOOT.

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When to be used.

ALTHOUGH the sword and lance are the special and proper weapons of cavalry, still occasions may occur when a portion of the troops must be used on foot with fire-arms. This may more especially be the case when there are no infantry available, and when a defile renders it advantageous or necessary to use fire-arms. Light cavalry must therefore be trained to this mode of fighting, which takes place on foot, since a dismounted man can shoot more steadily than on horseback, and can cover himself more easily. Under any circumstances only a portion of the force will be used for fighting on foot, the rest remain mounted, and are ready to attack with their swords or lances, and succour their dismounted comrades. The squadron leader gives the word, '*The division will fight dismounted.*' The troop leader gives the word, '*Division return swords;*' '*Prepare to fight dismounted.*' The men move out as usual when they dismount, numbers 1 and 2 in each section of threes dismount and hand over their horses to number 3, who remains mounted.

How to be conducted.

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They then, after dismounting, move out in front, as laid down in regulations, and act as required; the mounted men remain out of shot, and are ready to support their dismounted comrades.

Duties when fighting dismounted.

The same rules hold good for fighting on foot as were laid down respecting skirmishing mounted; in each file one man supports the other; it depends on the ground whether they are in rear of each other or in line. In advancing the man who fires must be in front, in retiring he must be behind, and both change places according as they fire. When the ground is open the men must preserve some sort of order; when it is broken the connection of the line must not be lost, and the neighbouring files must be able to see each other.

Objects which afford cover, if they lie in front of the line, must be utilised so as to conceal marksmen, and to enable them to approach the enemy unseen and to deliver their fire. The men must be trained to avail themselves of such objects as trees, ditches, hedges, houses, walls, &c., and even of inconsiderable undulations of ground both as a covering for their bodies and as a rest for their carbines, while they must learn to load quickly, and to shoot either kneeling or lying down. It is very important to aim quietly, and to judge the distances correctly. The men should especially aim at the enemy's officers.

If there is a hand-to-hand fight, men must have recourse to their swords. As a rule those firing are only permitted to run for a short distance, and

when they have to cross over a piece of open ground, which is swept by the enemy's fire.

If the firing line has to be lengthened, reinforced, or diminished, whoever commands it will give the more detailed instructions that are wanted. The firing line may be prolonged with advantage, if it can thereby get round the flank of the enemy.

The men dismounted must attend to the commands, '*March!*' '*Halt!*' &c., as if they were mounted.

The officers and non-commissioned officers should be behind the firing line, and should direct the men. They should remain on horseback as long as circumstances permit, so that they have a better supervision over the line and its movements.

Regarding relieving the line.

When the command is given '*—nd Division, to your horses,*' the men referred to should retire briskly without running; those who remain halted on the ground should fill up the gaps thus made in the line. When a whole line has to be relieved, before the men relieved are allowed to retire their successors must be posted.

Recalling the line.

On the recall being sounded, or on the word of command being given, '*To your horses,*' the dismounted men will run quickly to their horses, taking care however not to frighten them; they must then smartly mount and draw swords.

While the horses are being mounted the portion of the force that has remained on their horses must hold itself in readiness to advance and protect the dismounted detachment.

CHAPTER XX.

THE ATTACK.

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The attack.

The Charge.—The attack is the peculiar and special province of Cavalry. Their strength, which makes them irresistible, lies in their speed and in their shock. They surrender every advantage if they await the attack. Indeed if Cavalry is not to be completely destroyed, they must boldly advance and dash quickly across the ground in their front; then, by the very ardour and power of their onslaught, they will beat down and overthrow all that are before them.

The rapid pace raises the spirit of the rider; he feels nothing can withstand him, and when he reaches the enemy he dashes in and cuts down all in his path. Victory is within his grasp; it depends on his own will —on his own determination. It is the confidence in his power which makes him invincible.

Conditions necessary for success.

The power of the attack depends, first on the determination of the rider, secondly on the excellence and training of the horse, and lastly on dexterity in the use of the sword and lance. The more suddenly and unexpectedly the line of cavalry reaches the enemy, the more easily will it throw him into con-

fusion, and thus deprive him of the power of resistance. If the charge has created this confusion, the subsequent annihilation of the foe will depend on the dexterity of the riders in the use of their weapons.

Necessity of order.

There is nothing more important in an attack than to preserve the order and close connexion of the troops who charge; in one word, there is nothing more important than that there should be no gaps in the attacking line. The men must be closely locked up together, and should come on the enemy in an unbroken and perfect order; this order should never be lost, least of all at the last moment of attack, when perhaps the quickness of the horses' movements and the effects of the enemy's fire might excuse it. If there are any gaps in the attacking line there is less chance of success, since the enemy will soon take advantage of these weak points, and will endeavour to break the line and cleave it asunder.

Hand-to-hand combats.

If it comes to a hand-to-hand fight—to single combat—then the rider must keep himself cool and self-possessed, and must trust to the excellence of his horse, and to the dexterity with which he can himself use his weapons.

If a cavalry soldier sees a colour, an officer, or any comrade in danger, he must fearlessly hasten to their assistance. The sword and the sabre are excellent weapons in such hand-to-hand fights; the blade must be sharp, and its possessor must never dishonour or destroy it by putting it to a use for which it was not intended. Much practice and dexterity is required

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to handle the lance with effect; but when properly used, it is a most deadly weapon, since a slight thrust either kills a man or disables him. The point must be sharp, and as in a charge or thrust it often penetrates further than intended into the body of an enemy, thereby causing embarrassment, a lance flag or leather button should be placed behind the point. Should a man lose his lance, he must use his sword until he can provide himself with another. In a single combat, the lancer must take care that his adversary does not come under the lance, as in that case he will be unable further to use it. The guards serve to protect him from this, that is to say, vigorous waving motion of the lance backwards and forwards from right to left. He can still better effect his purpose by striking the horse of his adversary on the head, and making it shy, so that it will not come near him.

Necessity of obedience.

Subordination and obedience is never more necessary than in battle. Every sign, look, or command, must be obeyed instantaneously and implicitly. This is more especially the case when a commander wishes to leave off fighting or to stop a pursuit. The signal given must be immediately attended to, and the men should rally as quickly as possible round the colours, the supports, or their commander, as the case may be.

In battle a soldier must never quit his place in the ranks, unless absolutely obliged. The carriers of the

sick[1] are detailed to carry off wounded men to the ambulance; should, in an exceptional case, a cavalry soldier be ordered to assist, he should immediately return to his place when he has performed his task.

To fly, or to throw away his arms, brings on the soldier the greatest disgrace and ignominy that he can possibly incur. He must discard and dismiss every cowardly thought as his greatest enemy, and both before and during the combat must cherish the feeling that it is the special vocation of the soldier to fight, and that by courage and endurance he will conquer his enemy. He must remember that his sovereign and his country will honour and reward his bravery, and that in the greatest danger his life is watched over by the Almighty God.

Courage is inseparable from honour, cowardice inseparable from ignominy; the soldier must value his honour more than his life, and must prefer death to disgrace.

So long as the rider is on his horse he should never surrender; even if he is surrounded by danger he should not hesitate; he should make up his mind quickly and act determinedly. Indecision doubles the danger, and is itself the greatest danger.

In case of being taken prisoner.

No man should be taken prisoner unless he is wounded or has lost his horse; if he is surrounded by the enemy, he should select the weakest point, and by a determined and sudden onslaught attempt to

[1] In German armies a certain number of men are specially told off to carry the sick and wounded from the battle-field.—*Trans.*

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cut his way through them. If, however, he still falls a prisoner into their hands, he must bear his misfortune with dignity, and thus earn his adversaries' respect. He should never be induced even by threats to give any information to the enemy regarding the army to which he belongs.

In case of being wounded or unhorsed.

A wounded man should not quit the field until he can no longer ride or carry his arms; he should then hand over his horse to a comrade who wants one, and should do the same with his ammunition and arms.

If a man loses his horse, he should try and save the saddlery, and should always take his carbine or pistol with him. When possible, he should then endeavour to catch a riderless horse, or to procure one belonging to a wounded man. If this cannot be done, he should make his way to the nearest infantry, and fight in their ranks to the best of his power.

Treatment of prisoners.

Prisoners must never be ill-treated or derided. The soldier who kills or wounds an unarmed enemy commits a barbarous outrage, for which all his comrades must despise him. As far as possible the misfortunes of prisoners should be alleviated, more especially if they have fought bravely.

When a cavalry soldier has to escort a mounted prisoner, he should take away the man's weapons, and make him dismount. He should then fasten the horse's reins to his own saddle, and make the prisoner himself walk close in front of him, keeping his sword drawn, or his carbine cocked. If it is necessary for the sake of speed that the prisoner should remain on

horseback, then the man escorting him should lead his horse by the reins, and should take every other possible precaution. If many prisoners have to be brought out of action, then their horses must be tied together, and sent on in front. The riders disarmed and dismounted should be escorted in rear, and in case of necessity should be forced to quicken their pace.

Attacking cavalry.

Hostile Cavalry must be attacked with the greatest vigour and determination. Some nations teach their cavalry to fire at the moment when the attack is approaching near. No one must allow himself to be misled as to this fire; the shots will nearly all fail to take effect, and those who fire them have not time to think of otherwise protecting themselves. But whether the enemy fire or gallop to meet you, on getting near them *ram the spurs in, and stick close together—this is all that is wanted.* If there are any gaps in the enemy's line, then dash into them, and cut a road for those who follow you.

Making prisoners.

If the enemy gives way, he must be pursued, and every effort made to destroy him. The pursuers must not halt to make prisoners, but they must gallop through the fugitives, and try and cut off their retreat; only when this has succeeded is it time to trouble about individual prisoners. If the enemy desists from all resistance, then prisoners may be made and horses captured. In a pursuit especial attention must be paid to what has already been said regarding the signals for a rally.

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In a hand-to-hand fight the men should try to get their right hand to their opponent's left. The thrust should be directed at the abdomen, the cut behind the head, on the arms, or at the hand that holds the reins.

Attacking infantry.

An attack on an Infantry Square should be made at the corners, and on the narrow sides. The men who attack must close up to one another, and charging home through the smoke of the powder, must ride down and cut to pieces all opposed to them. At the moment when any volley is fired, the horses must be held straight and pressed on with all the strength of the rider, so that they may not try to turn round, or bend to the side. If this moment, when the first volley is fired, can be got over satisfactorily, any subsequent volleys will have but little effect, and attacking cavalry will soon be into the square.

If the cavalry is accompanied by horse artillery, then the enemy before the attack must be so shaken by fire that they can be easily approached. It is dangerous for cavalry to give way directly before infantry, or to turn round, as thereby the courage of the infantry soldiers will naturally be very much raised ; they will aim more quietly, and shoot better.

Attacking skirmishers.

Lines of skirmishers can be best attacked by cavalry on the flank. When attacking single infantry soldiers, horsemen should try to surprise them, and keeping them to the right hand to parry their bayonets, and cut them down. *Cavalry must never attack woods, villages, or similar positions ;* they should also never remain

within shot of an enemy posted in such positions. In every attack cavalry must have a reserve.

Attacking artillery.

Cavalry attacks artillery to best advantage, when the latter are in the act of marching, limbering, or unlimbering. If this time cannot be selected, one portion of the attacking cavalry in open order should advance against the front of the battery, another in close order against a flank, but the great portion should attack the escort. Such movements as these must if possible be covered by the ground; they should also be suddenly begun, and as quickly carried out. If the attack succeeds, the artillerymen should be quickly cut down between their guns.

How guns should be carried off.

The drivers will, if possible, not be allowed to escape, but must be compelled to drive off the guns or to lead away the team.

Should the drivers have escaped with their teams, then if there be time to do so cavalry horses must be harnessed to the guns. This is only possible for short distances, and if there is not a superior force of the enemy near. It is, however, advisable to practice this way of moving guns, as at other times it may be useful. Two cloaks folded into long rolls will act as collar and breast-plate, and the forage-ropes twisted round one another and attached to these may be used as traces.

How guns should be disabled.

If a gun cannot be carried off, then it should as quickly as possible be rendered unserviceable; the traces must be cut, and the means for firing it destroyed. Thus sand and stones may be put into it,

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large stones rammed into the bore in the rifling; the breeches and means of loading it broken or carried off; the wheels, shafts, &c., knocked to pieces.

Attack in line.

The different kinds of Attack.—The attack in line is a direct advance against the enemy with increasing celerity. What has been said above regarding the necessity of closing in, so as to avoid gaps, applies more especially to an attack in line.

The centre of the attacking line, which gives the direction, must take care that it leads straight, and the flanks must not diverge. The unity and order of the line will be destroyed and gaps will appear in it if it so happen that any individuals reach the enemy before the entire body. There will be the same unfavourable result if any men disgracefully hang back, and do not ride on with their comrades.

Flank attacks.

Generally one or more troops will be detached on one of the wings of the attacking line to outflank the enemy, or to take him in flank and rear, and also to protect the line itself from a similar manœuvre. The troops detached for this purpose will follow in column, either on the flank or concealed behind one of the extremities of the attack in line according to circumstances.

A flank attack must be so timed that the enemy receives the charge in flank simultaneously with the one in front. There should always be a party detached to protect the flanks of an attacking line from the enemy.

Pursuing attack of

An attack with one squadron pursuing is used when

the enemy gives way, and does not wait to receive the charge of the line; then a portion of the attacking force should pursue quickly in open order, while the greater part follows in the usual close line formation.

one squadron.

An attack in pursuing or skirmishing order is adapted to the pursuit of a flying enemy; it will be carried out in the same manner as the one just mentioned, but without attention being paid to closing in, to direction, or to the order of the ranks. A portion of the force should always follow as a support. It is very important that after the attack there should be a quick rallying to the support, which often, according to the state of the battle, will have taken up a different front from that which it occupied when the line commenced the pursuit.

Of entire line.

An attack in *échelon* is a line-attack, when one portion of the force (one, or more squadrons, or a regiment) attacks after the other. The retired portion is intended to complete the rout of an enemy already shaken and yielding before the first attack, or else to increase the impetus of the latter, and the impression created by it.

The Attack in Close Column.—The regiment (or brigade) is in close column of squadrons. The rear squadron—or in a brigade the regiment of Light Cavalry, if there be one—places itself on the flank of the column, and deploys two divisions; in the case of a brigade, two squadrons.

Attack in close column.

The column attacks and charges home through the enemy; the divisions or squadrons deployed pursue him

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on the flanks if he gives way, or close round his flanks.

Attack in open column.

Attack in Open Column.—The regiment is in close column of squadrons. The first squadron attacks—the column, in close order, follows at a trot at 300 paces distance. If the attack of the first squadron is unsuccessful, its squadron leader sounds the recall, whereupon the men turn round, clear the front as quickly as possible, and rally round both flanks in rear of the column: they then form ranks and follow after it. While this takes place the second squadron charges in the same way as the first, and so on the remainder, according to circumstances.

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